

Soviets offer Gulf naval escort

MOSCOW (R) — A Moscow Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday three oil tankers chartered to Kuwait for three years could be escorted by Soviet naval vessels if needed. The spokesman, Gennady Gerasimov, told reporters at a regular briefing that the charter agreement, on which he gave no specific details, could be revised after the first three years. Gerasimov was confirming reports from diplomatic sources in Kuwait who said on Monday Kuwait had agreed to charter the tankers from Moscow in a move to protect its oil exports through the war-torn Gulf. "If necessary, they will be protected by Soviet vessels," Gerasimov added. He did not say how it would be decided when protection was required. According to the Kuwait-based diplomats, the agreement followed months of talks by Kuwait with Moscow and Washington on ways to secure its oil lifeline. Iran has attacked Kuwait-connected vessels in retaliation for what it says is Kuwait's support for Iraq in the Gulf war. Moscow has sought to maintain neutrality in the conflict, urging both sides to make peace. But recently it has indicated disapproval of Iran's insistence on continuing the war.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Mubarak meets businessmen

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met in Cairo on Tuesday with a delegation of Jordanian businessmen visiting Egypt for talks on promoting trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and Egypt. The meeting was attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami. Following the meeting, Mr. Mubarak expressed deep satisfaction with the strong economic links between the two countries. The president stressed the importance of Arab solidarity and vowed regret over continuing differences among Arab governments. Mr. Abu Hassan said. The president, he added, urged businessmen of both countries to achieve further coordination in economic and trade matters and also to develop their exchange of information and expertise in the fertilisers industry, agriculture and plasticulture. The delegation earlier toured the October Six industrial city in Egypt and were briefed on its activities and services.

Volume 12 Number 3451

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 1987, SHABAN 17, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Justice ministers thank Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the meetings of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers on Tuesday sent a cable of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein at the conclusion of the council's fifth session in Amman. The cable paid tribute to the King's patronage of the council and said the King's support "contributed to the positive results and recommendations aimed at bringing about unified Arab legislation. The participants also sent a similar cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in which they highly praised his keynote address at the outset of the session. Earlier on Tuesday, the ministers visited the Karamah Battle site in the Jordan Valley and laid a wreath at the Martyrs Monument there.

Syrian minister visits Jordan Valley

IRBID (Petra) — Syrian Minister of Interior Mohammad Ghabash on Tuesday visited the frontlines of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and the Jordan Valley region. Mr. Ghabash, who was accompanied by his Jordanian counterpart Rajai Dajani, was met by Irbid Governor Akram Al Naser and senior officers who briefed him on the strategic importance of the northern Jordan Valley area. Later, the minister visited Wadi Al Arab Dam and heard a briefing by Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin on the East Ghor Canal and its usefulness for the valley.

Mubarak's party gains more seats

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak's party chalked up further parliamentary gains Tuesday, winning eight of nine seats contested in runoff elections, according to official results. This brought the total strength of the National Democratic Party (NDP) to 347 seats in the People's Assembly, which has 448 elected seats. The constitution empowers Mr. Mubarak to appoint up to 10 members of parliament.

U.S. sends home 5 Marines from Vienna

VIENNA (R) — Five U.S. Marines guarding their country's Vienna embassy have been sent home under suspicion of having unauthorised contacts with local nationals while previously serving in East bloc countries, a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said Tuesday. She told Reuters the five were sent home on Sunday for further investigations but there was no suspicion at this stage that their cases involved espionage. (See related story on page 8).

Moscow denies radiation leak

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union on Tuesday denied that radiation detected in West Germany and Sweden came from the Soviet Union. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told reporters that the Soviet Union's radiation detection equipment is "functioning well and no discharges of radioactive emissions have been registered on the territory of the Soviet Union." He said if anyone is detecting radioactive releases they should look elsewhere (See related story on page 8).

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Birzeit killing sparks violent Arab protests throughout W. Bank

RAMALLAH (Agencies) — Hundreds of protesters hurled rocks at Israeli troops in towns throughout the West Bank Tuesday and the Israeli army clamped a curfew on the occupied Gaza Strip hometown of a Palestinian student shot dead by Israeli soldiers on Monday.

An Israeli spokesman said the dawn to dusk curfew was imposed on Ramallah, an occupied Gaza Strip town bordering Egypt, in the wake of demonstrations by rock-throwing Palestinians to protest the slaying of Musa Al Hanafi, 23. Hanafi was shot to death when Israeli troops stormed the Birzeit University campus in the West Bank on Monday to disperse hundreds of student protesters. The army closed the 3,000-student campus for four months, citing the violent clashes.

The current cycle of violence began when a firebomb hurled into a car Saturday night killed a Jewish woman and seriously injured five other Jewish settlers. An army official reported rock throwing and demonstrations in

Ramallah Tuesday. In Ramallah, a news photographer saw troops fire rubber bullets and tear-gas canisters to disperse dozens of demonstrators outside a girl's school in the Manara Square.

Palestinian protesters also demonstrated outside the College of Medical Professions, just south of Ramallah, setting up roadblocks and burning tyres soaked with gasoline.

The protesters, which included women, chanted "Israel no, PLO," as they hurled rocks in the direction of dozens of Israeli troops patrolling about 50 metres away.

Reporters also observed evidence of early-morning demonstrations in Ramallah, with rocks, broken glass and half-burnt gar-

bage strewn in the streets. The atmosphere was tense, with schools closed and shops shuttered on the second day of a commercial strike.

An army jeep rounding up teenage protesters patrolled the streets, stopping occasionally to question Arabs, check their identity cards and order them home.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors news in the occupied territories, also reported demonstrations in the West Bank towns of Bethlehem, Nablus and Jenin, as well as at the Balata refugee camp. It said there were no reported injuries.

In Nablus, Al Najah University closed down for three days in solidarity with the closure for four months of Birzeit.

Britain said Tuesday it deplored the outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We deplore the recent outbreak of violence in the occupied territories," a Foreign Office spokesman said in London.

"These events serve only to demonstrate how quickly one act of violence leads to another, fuelling extremism on both sides."

Syrians deploy near Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Syrian troops deployed Tuesday at the outskirts of the port city of Sidon, the farthest south they have been since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

The move was described as aimed at ending a 23-month-old war between Palestinians and the Shi'ite Amal militia around refugee camps and highlands east of the city.

Officials at the Syrian command in Beirut said 120 Syrian paratroopers deployed down a 35-kilometre stretch of the coastal highway up to the Awali River on Sidon's northern outskirts. The road links the southern provincial capital with Beirut.

The Syrians immediately started to man checkpoints along with Lebanese army soldiers who took control of the road from Druze and Amal militiamen on March 4.

"There will be complete coordination between the Lebanese troops and the Syrians," a Syrian

officer at Awali told reporters.

Reports have said that Israel has warned that it would not tolerate a Syrian military presence south of the Awali, calling the river an "Israeli red line."

The river runs roughly 60 kilometres north of the Israeli border. The deployment force is equipped with light automatic weapons without any tanks or armoured personnel carriers.

Colonel Ali Deeb, commander of the deploying force, told reporters at Awali that he has no orders to enter Sidon at the time being. He said his troops would patrol the Beirut-Sidon highway from the three checkpoints.

The Syrian army, which has a 1976 peacekeeping mandate in Lebanon from the 21-nation Arab League, was last in the Sidon region in 1982. It pulled out when Israel invaded Lebanon that year.

The Syrian force is part of a 7,500-strong contingent dispatched to west Beirut on Feb. 22 to

curb a three-year anarchist reign of feuding militias at the request of Muslim government leaders.

The Syrians have since closed down all militia offices in the capital's western sector and intervened to ease a five-month-old siege of two Palestinian refugee camps by Amal militiamen.

Tuesday's expansion of the Syrian military intervention is aimed at speeding up a withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from the highlands they captured from Amal last Nov. 24, officials at the Syrian command said. They declined to be named.

Amal has been demanding that pullout as a precondition for lifting its military siege of Beirut's Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camps.

Amal men have maintained positions ringing the two shantytowns, although some 900 Syrian paratroopers deployed at their main entrances last week to relax Amal's food blockade.

Dynamite blasts rock west Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Six bombs exploded in a 10-minute span in Syrian-controlled west Beirut on Tuesday and police said four civilians were wounded. It was the biggest single-day bomb blitz in Beirut's mainly Muslim western sector since Syria deployed 7,500 troops Feb. 22 to end three years of militia anarchy.

Tuesday's blasts raised the number of bombings since the Syrian intervention to 56.

Police said the blasts were caused by sticks of dynamite hurled by unidentified extremists from a speeding blue Peugeot car in the Hamra commercial district and the nearby residential district of Verdun.

Most of the dynamite exploded on rubbish piled up on street corners of the once-fashionable Ras Beirut district, police said. Several cars were damaged and the windows of surrounding apartment blocks were shattered, residents reported.

Syria's chief of military intelligence in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, has said his soldiers detained several people suspected of involvement in "garbage bomb" attacks.

The latest blasts also came less than 24 hours after fresh fighting erupted between rival forces across the Lebanese capital.

Artillery shells and mortar bombs slammed into both sectors of the city.

Saudis said seeking Ramadan truce in Gulf; Khomeini restates refusal

LONDON (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia is apparently attempting to negotiate a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war to coincide with the start of the fasting month of Ramadan on April 29, the Times of London reported Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted unidentified Iranian sources as saying that "substantial progress has been made" in secret talks between Iran and Saudi officials representing Iraq. The sources were quoted as saying that a ceasefire would mark the start of peace talks.

Neither the Saudis nor the Iraqis would confirm that talks are under way, the paper said.

It quoted the sources as saying that a leading member of Iran's supreme defence council, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, met in London last month with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal during King Fahd's state visit to Britain.

Both sides "appear ready to make substantial concessions if the Iranian interpretation of progress so far proves correct," the newspaper said.

It said a "face-saving formula" was being negotiated to accommodate Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's insistence that there can be no peace while Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Ayatollah Khomeini on Tuesday dismissed calls for a Gulf war ceasefire during Ramadan, saying

they were aimed at helping the Iraqis.

The Tehran Radio report of his statement, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said that Iran would not end the war until the ruling Iraq Baath Party was overthrown.

"Those who are America's followers have called upon us to observe ceasefire during the holy month of Ramadan... our nation should beware of the tricks of the big powers who hatch a plot at every opportunity," Ayatollah Khomeini said.

Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa on Tuesday called on the European Community (EC) to cooperate with Gulf Arab states to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency said the call was made during Sheikh Khalifa's meeting with EC ambassadors on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the community.

"The war does not only drain economic resources of the two warring countries, but also threatens the security, stability and prosperity of Gulf Arab states in general and hinders efforts to pursue their development drive," Sheikh Khalifa said.

Member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) look to their friends in the United States, Europe and other countries for active moves to end the war, he said.



REGENT VISITS MAFRAQ SCHOOL: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the

Regent, on Tuesday visits a classroom at a school in Mafraq (See story on page 3)

PLO factions continue dialogue; Syria launches new initiative

By Lamis K. Andoni in Algiers

A PALESTINIAN national dialogue entered its second day here on Tuesday and informed sources said Syria had proposed that it would back efforts for reunifying the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) subject to certain conditions.

As various factions of the PLO met here and continued discussions over means and ways to reunite rival PLO groups under the umbrella of the organisation led by Chairman Yasser Arafat, well-placed Palestinian sources said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in a meeting with former PNC Speaker Khaled Al Fakhour on Monday, expressed willingness to receive a PLO delegation representing all factions if all factions endorsed an inter-PLO agreement signed by six factions in Tripoli, Libya, last month.

The Syrian proposal also included an invitation to all PLO factions to visit Damascus for a meeting with Mr. Assad before the Palestine National Council (PNC) convenes here on April 20, the sources said.

According to the sources, Syria suggested that Khalil Al Wazir, deputy military commander of the PLO and co-founder of

Fateh, the largest Palestinian commando movement and Mr. Arafat's powerbase in the PLO, could lead the PLO delegation to Damascus.

Mr. Wazir was deported from Syria in June 1983 along with Mr. Arafat after the PLO chairman accused Syria of instigating and encouraging a rebellion in the ranks of Fateh fighters based in north Lebanon.

The sources who spoke to the Jordan Times on Tuesday said the Syrian proposal said that "if all factions endorsed the Tripoli document, everybody without exception would be welcome to Damascus," thus indicating that the Syrian leadership might be willing to reconsider its opposition to Mr. Arafat.

However, Fateh sources said the movement could not fully endorse the Tripoli document since it stipulated the declaration as null and void the 17th session of the PNC, held in Amman in 1984, a severance of all PLO contacts with Egypt and several other organisational reforms.

Palestinian factions here were divided on the Syrian proposal. Some of them viewed it as a welcome development but said any visit to Damascus by it should be taken up only after the PNC was convened as scheduled.

Others viewed the Syrian initiative as an effort at delaying the convening of the PNC.

Official Algerian sources told the Jordan Times that Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim left Algiers for Damascus with a message from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to President Assad. The message, said the sources, included an Algerian and Palestinian reiteration that the convening of the PNC as scheduled in Algiers was "by no means a challenge or confrontation with any Arab party or side."

The sources added that an official invitation had already been sent to President Assad along with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, a key player in the ongoing efforts to reunify the PLO, to attend the opening session of the PNC.

The Palestinian sources who spoke to the Jordan Times on Tuesday said the Syrian proposal conveyed to Mr. Fakhour also included an implicit warning to the Damascus-based Palestinian factions attending the Algiers talks. They said Syria had said that its stand towards these factions, whose leaders reportedly

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat and Mugabe call for world talks

HARARE (R) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat on Tuesday called for a global conference on the Middle East.

In speeches at the opening of a two-day meeting on the Middle East attended by nine states of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Zimbabwean capital Harare, the two leaders said a conference should be held under United Nations supervision and must involve all parties to the conflict "on an equal footing."

Mr. Mugabe, current chairman of the 101-nation non-aligned group, referred to the plight of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and said their situation was tragic and a challenge to all humanity.

"We cannot remain silent in the face of so much human suffering," he said.

The proposed international conference on the Middle East should be preceded by a preparatory meeting by the U.N. Security Council to iron out issues such as which parties should attend the meeting, leaving the conference itself to deal with details, Mr. Mugabe urged.

"No such conference could stand any hope of success unless the Palestinian people, as represented by the PLO, are a fully-recognised party," Mugabe said.

The Zimbabwean prime minister said all efforts by the international community to resolve the Middle East problems would fail if Israel did not withdraw from occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinians were not granted self-determination.

Mr. Arafat arrived here earlier Tuesday.

Egypt: Jordan-PLO accord is vital for peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad El-Sadat said Tuesday that a Jordan-PLO agreement was an essential factor for peace in the region.

He was commenting on reports that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had abrogated the Feb. 11, 1985, agreement with Jordan.

"Our position regarding the accord is known which is that rapport, agreement, understanding and harmony between Jordan and the PLO is an essential and principal factor for political action in the region," Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters.

"That is why we see a need for continuation of contacts between our Jordanian brothers and the Palestinians," he added.

Answering reporters' questions, Mr. Abdul Meguid refused to comment directly on the reported PLO decision, said to have been announced Monday by Mr. Arafat at a closed Palestinian meeting in Algiers.

The meeting was a prelude to a conference of the Palestine National Council (PNC) scheduled to begin next Monday in Algiers. The preliminary meeting reportedly was aimed at reconciling differences among various Palestinian factions, and abrogation of the accord was a condition of the hardliners.

"As for what has been reported and published today, I would rather wait for the PNC meeting, as the PNC is the legislative power in the Palestinian movement which approved the accord," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

Last week, Mr. Arafat's second in command, Khalil Al Wazir, said in a newspaper interview that Fateh, the PLO's largest faction, had renounced the accord to pave

the way for reunification of Palestinian factions.

President Hosni Mubarak, in an interview with the Saudi Arabian newspaper published last Thursday, strongly warned the PLO against scrapping the agreement. He said such a move would mean "blowing up everything and putting (Jordan) in a tight corner."

The Qatar weekly Al Abd quoted Salah Khalaf, a top Arafat aide, as saying that the PLO would propose "an Arab accord in lieu of the Amman accord" at a pan-Arab summit conference expected to be held later this year.

The new accord would be "an expansion" of the Amman accord and include "all the confrontation states qualified to participate at an international peace conference and comprise Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine," Mr. Khalaf told the magazine.

The dispute over 130 short-range Soviet weapons has delayed an agreement to remove medium-range missiles from Europe.

The espionage issue is more volatile. Mr. Shultz confronted Mr. Shevardnadze at the start of his three-day visit Monday with charges that Soviet spies helped by U.S. Marine guards had access to sensitive files at the U.S. embassy.

Soviet officials claim there was extensive U.S. bugging of their diplomatic facilities in Washington and New York. U.S. officials say the Soviets have laced the new U.S. embassy in Moscow with bugs.

As Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Shultz shook hands under gilded chandeliers from the Czarist days, a reporter asked the Soviet leader if he would go to Washington.

"This is precisely what we are going to discuss," he replied in Russian. "We must continue the discussion and then answer your question."

Nuclear arms have dominated the Shultz agenda in Moscow. U.S. and Soviet arms experts have held separate meetings in an attempt to narrow differences.

Tindemans arrives in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans arrived here late Tuesday for talks expected to focus on effort towards convening an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices to set a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Tindemans, president of the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers, was met upon arrival by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and other senior officials.

During his stay here, Mr. Tindemans is scheduled to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other government leaders for talks on possible EC contribution to help Jordan's efforts for convening the proposed international conference with the participation of all the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Belgium's ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Guido Vansina, was quoted as saying by AP that Mr. Tindemans would try "to make more precise the elements which could lead to an international peace conference."

In Brussels, Belgian government sources quoted by Reuters said Mr. Tindemans' talks in Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia would focus on the obstacles to convening a conference as well as details of how it might be organised, its terms of reference and who would take part.

Mr. Tindemans has made the Middle East a focus of his six-month tenure as chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, which ends July 1, and oversaw a council meeting in February that endorsed the idea of an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It is high time for the EC to find out means for preserving the positive results realised in the wake of the EC's endorsement of the international conference," Mr. Tindemans was quoted as saying in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas.

(Continued on page 3)

Shultz invites Gorbachev to U.S. summit

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz on Tuesday invited Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to a Washington summit meeting, then launched into another series of arms control talks.

Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Shultz and their advisers met for more than four hours Tuesday afternoon. In addition, Mr. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze added a late-night negotiating session to their schedule.

U.S. officials declined to say what specific issues would be tackled at the extra session, but arms control has dominated Mr. Shultz's talks.

Mr. Shultz gave Mr. Gorbachev a letter from President Ronald Reagan at the outset of their Kremlin meeting. The invitation came on the heels of a bitter public exchange of espionage accusations between the two superpowers.

Mr. Gorbachev was cool to Mr. Reagan's invitation.

Libya continues air raids on lost positions in northern Chad

OUADI DOUM, Chad (R) — Routed in the sands of northern Chad, Libya has launched a series of air attacks against its lost desert stronghold in an attempt to erase the record of its humiliating defeat.

Libyan bombers, their powerful engines muffled by the altitude, give little warning of their arrival, appearing suddenly overhead with their delta wings glinting in the central African sun.

The Soviet-built Sukhoi and MiG planes at first resemble gliders rather than planes of war as they soar with eerie silence over the vast, uninhabited desert that surrounds Libya's former air base at Ouadi Doum, captured by Chad on March 22.

But a series of loud thuds followed by great clouds of sand and rock break the uneasy calm as 500 kilogramme bombs crash into the barren ground.

Libya, despite its rout on the ground, still controls the skies of northern Chad and has made bombing raids almost every day from its base at Maaten As Sarra in an attempt to destroy the masses of aircraft and equipment left behind.

Chad has no combat air force and France bars its own aircraft stationed in the south from flying beyond a defence perimeter that

stops short of the desert region, known as "useless Chad" to former French colonisers.

When the first group of foreign reporters visited the area last week, pairs of Libyan bombers made three separate raids against the Ouadi Doum base, attacking in the morning and afternoon with clockwork regularity.

White tracers etched the sky as Chadian troops tried to hit the high-flying bombers, which rarely descend below 20,000 feet (6,000 metres) for fear of the Chadians' shoulder-held SAM-7 and U.S.-supplied "Red-Eye" anti-aircraft missiles.

Chadian soldiers have shot down two planes in the area in the past three weeks and proudly escorted foreign reporters to view the charred remnants of a Czechoslovak-made L39 light bomber downed on April 7.

Its wreckage lies scattered for hundreds of metres around a blackened central crater, with mutilated portions of the Libyan pilot's body spread about a parachute that clearly never had time to open.

Emboldened by such hits, Chadian fighters show little fear of the bombers and only laughed when reporters asked that a tour of the runway be cut short after one bomb fell nearby, sending shrapnel and stones flying by.

Because of their altitude, the Libyan bombing raids lack precision but have left a series of craters around the 3,900-metre aluminium plate runway on which captured aircraft and helicopters now stand collecting dust.

Seven Czechoslovak L-39 bombers and a Soviet-made Mi-24 helicopter were parked intact along the air-strip between the burnt out shells of other abandoned aircraft.

At one end of the airstrip, reporters saw the remains of a second Soviet-built attack helicopter apparently destroyed by Libyan cluster bombs dropped by parachute.

"They have been beaten morally and physically so they are now trying to destroy what they left behind," said Chadian officer Tchichao Kossé.

Under pressure from France which is eager to study the captured equipment, Chadian forces have begun evacuating some of the weaponry.

Several batteries of SAM-6 missiles that ringed the desert

compound have been transported along with radar guidance systems to a more secure Franco-Chadian base at Kalait, some 280 kilometres south east of Ouadi Doum.

While concentrating most of their fire power on the Ouadi Doum compound, Libyan bombers have also carried out a series of raids on other captured positions.

Soon after Libyan troops pulled out of the key northern oasis of Faya-Largeau after the Ouadi Doum debacle, Libyan bombers launched several raids against the town.

Reporters who visited the oasis, the largest town in northern Chad and captured by the government on March 27, saw that a group of mud-built houses near the airstrip that had been completely destroyed by Libyan bombs.

Levelled by the force of the blast, the area now lies littered in rubble, though like much of Faya it appears to have been uninhabited.

Sporadic and largely inaccurate attacks have also been reported against the north eastern oasis town of Fada, which fell to government troops on Jan. 2 after their first major victory in a drive to oust Libyan forces.

Beirut camp medical staff arrive in Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Pauline Cutting, a British doctor who survived a five-month siege of Beirut's Bouj Al Barajneh refugee camp, arrived in Cyprus with two members of her medical team Tuesday after being threatened by Shi'ite Muslim militiamen for helping the Palestinians.

"We received messages that we would be cut up and were advised to leave," Cutting, 37, of north London, told reporters, as she left a ferry boat that brought her to Larnaca from Jounieh, a Falangist-held port north of Beirut.

She arrived with nurse Susan Wighton, 28, of Glasgow, and Ben Aloff, a Dutch male nurse, who had helped her treat hundreds of Palestinians wounded in the camps fighting.

Cutting, looking haggard and pale after her ordeal, said they had been escorted out of Bouj Al Barajneh Monday by Syrian soldiers who moved into Beirut on Feb. 22 to end factional fighting.

"Getting to the airport road was the most scary bit," Ms. Wighton said.

She giggled and drew her hand across her throat to show what she felt would have happened to the medical team if they had fallen into the hands of the Shi'ite gunmen.

John Gray, Britain's ambassador to Lebanon, met the team on Beirut's Airport Highway which runs only a few hundred metres from the camp, and drove them across the city's dividing green line to the relative safety of the Christian sector.

"We were sad to leave our friends behind. If you've lived and worked to help people in a difficult time you feel sad to leave them. We're here safe, and they're still there," Cutting said.

Cutting said she had worked in the sprawling shantytown camp on Beirut's southern outskirts for 15 months.

She said the most difficult time came recently "when we felt the camp was starting to collapse and that the Shi'ites might come in and kill us all, but the Palestinians managed to hold on."

A total of 136 people were killed and 800 wounded during the time she and Ms. Wighton spent in the camp, she added.

The situation had improved over the last week after Syrian troops moved into the camp and lifted the siege, she added.

"I'd like to go back after a rest," Cutting said.

Wighton said she'd like to return as well. The nurse added that she would like to spend a few days in Cyprus before going back to Britain.

"I feel more sad than relieved to be out of the camp," she said.

"The most touching moment was when many of our friends gathered around us as we were leaving the camp yesterday to say goodbye," she said.

Turkey formally applies to join EC

BRUSSELS (R) — Turkey formally applied Tuesday to join the European Community (EC), Turkey's minister of state in charge of relations with the Community said.

Ali Bozer said he had submitted his country's application to become the 13th member of the bloc at a meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, who is current president of the Community's Council of Ministers.

"This is an historic moment for my country," Mr. Bozer told reporters. He said he hoped the Community would agree soon to Turkey's entry.

Community officials say Turkey's application has been made in the face of fierce resistance by Greece and against the advice of other members who feel it is premature.

This opposition and the lengthy bureaucratic process leading up to entry make it unlikely that Turkey will be able to join the bloc this century, they say.

Mr. Bozer said at his meeting with Mr. Tindemans he had reaffirmed "the determination of my country to join the European Community and the determination of the Turkish people to share in its destiny."

"We hope for an affirmative response in the near future," Mr. Tindemans, after meeting Mr. Bozer, said: "I shall in an objective and non-discriminatory manner follow the procedures of the Council (of Ministers)."

Diplomats interpreted this to mean that Turkey's application would be fairly considered in spite of deep reservations over the move within the Community.

Mr. Tindemans said procedural moves to consider the application would begin on April 27 when he presented Turkey's request to a session of EC foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

After consultations with the Community's legal experts, ministers would then decide whether to forward the application to the EC's Executive Commission, Mr. Tindemans said.

Only seven of the 12 ministers were needed to give their approval for Turkey's application to go ahead.

Once the commission has reached a decision, the application would go back to the Council for further study. The whole preparatory phase would take between three to four years, a council spokesman said.

Negotiations on the entry of Spain and Portugal, who joined the Community in 1986, lasted over 10 years.

Turkey would be the first member of the Community not fully in Europe and not predominantly Christian. Most of the country is in Asia and most Turks are Muslims.

But Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), has been linked to the Community by an association agreement since 1963 and Turkish officials have made clear that Ankara regards it as its right to join the Community.

Big trade and aid advantages as well as closer political links could spring from a successful application.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has said he accepts membership will take a long time to achieve but wants an early commitment to it.

Athens has made clear it will ultimately block Ankara's application unless the two countries' bitter territorial disputes are settled.

A final decision to enter formal negotiations with Ankara would require unanimous backing from all member states.

Diplomats here and in Ankara say the application would pose a dilemma for the EC, which would want to assure Turkey that it was valued as part of NATO but at the same time make clear that Community membership would pose huge problems.

The entry of another relatively poor Mediterranean country would put a heavy new burden on the Community's crisis-ridden finances and complicate further its lumbering decision-making process, officials here noted.

Several leading industrialised EC members have tried to dissuade Turkey from making the long-discussed formal application until the Community has had more time to digest the accession of Spain and Portugal, the officials said.

Some countries also want Ankara and the EC to implement the 24-year-old association agreement fully before discussing Turkish entry into the bloc.

Other concerns about Turkish entry focus on the stability of Turkish democracy, reestablished four years ago after a 1980 military coup, concern about its human rights record and the perceived weakness of its economy.

Greece takes "wait and see" stance

Greece took a "wait and see" stance Tuesday on Turkey's formal application to join the European Community and said it awaited the reaction of its EC partners with interest.

Greece has blocked Ankara's entry to the EC for years, citing the presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus and what it calls the violation of human rights in Turkey, a Turkish regime incompatible with other EC member countries and unsatisfactory economic conditions.

But when asked by reporters Tuesday for Greece's reaction to Turkey's formal application, government spokesman Yannis Roubatis said merely: "Greece awaits with great interest the reactions of other EC partners. It is an issue that pertains not only to Greece."

Community officials in Brussels said Turkey's application was made not only in the face of resistance by Greece but against the advice of other members who feel it is premature.

Cyprus deadlock is bad news for Kyprianou ahead of polls

NICOSIA (R) — The refusal of Turkish Cypriots to talk to Greek Cypriots unless they accept a United Nations draft Cyprus accord they have already rejected is bad news for President Spyros Kyprianou, politicians and diplomats say.

Mr. Kyprianou's political opponents, determined to thwart his bid for a third five-year term next February, are likely to gain from the continuing diplomatic deadlock.

"President Kyprianou would like some movement on the national issue during campaign year but, with the opposition snapping at his heels, I don't see him getting any leeway," a Western diplomat said.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has said he would agree to new Cyprus talks only if Greek Cypriots accepted a "draft framework agreement" for a federal republic issued a year ago as part of U.N. efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem.

The island has been virtually partitioned since Turkey occupied the northern third in 1974 following an abortive coup in Nicosia led by officers of the junta then ruling Greece.

Mr. Kyprianou has said the draft accord, for a power-sharing federal executive to reunite Cyprus, fails to address key issues — the withdrawal of 23,000 Turkish troops, freedom of movement and property ownership, and international guarantees.

Foreign Minister George Iacovides has said the draft was "extinct." "If it exists it is null and void, and in any case it was still-born from the start," he told reporters.

Better news for Mr. Kyprianou is the fact that opposition parties in the Greek Cypriot sector of the island have failed to agree to a common candidate to take him on at the polls.

The right-wing Rally Party has backed leader Glafcos Clerides as a candidate and the Edeks Socialists will run their leader, Parliament President Vassos Lyssarides.

Mr. Clerides said this week he would be prepared to back an independent candidate who, if he won the election, would form an all-party national unity government committed to solving the Cyprus problem.

The Akele Communist Party, which like Rally commands a third of electoral support, has yet to show its hand but is actively seeking a non-party candidate who would appeal to non-Communist voters.

Akele wants revenge for Mr. Kyprianou's scrapping an electoral pact with the party after it helped him to a decisive victory in 1983, political observers say.

Mr. Kyprianou's ruling centre-right Democratic Party has some 20 per cent support in the country.

U.S. to take new look at Iranian opposition group

WASHINGTON (AP) — A State Department official said Monday it will revise official U.S. government statements about an Iranian opposition group but foresees no change in policy towards the organisation that has been accused of terrorism.

The department has long steered clear of the People's Mujahadeen organisation of Iran, even though two House of Representatives members say the United States should at least talk with the group as part of a strategy of reaching out to Iranians opposed to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"We're going to issue a new statement" on the Mujahadeen, said a department official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

The purpose of the statement, which was yet to be written in final form, is to add nuances, he said, adding: "There is no change in our view of the Mujahadeen anticipated."

Earlier in the month, the State Department reiterated its 1985 position that mere opposition to Khomeini "is no reason for us to support a group which has engaged in terrorist actions for several years."

But Republican Representative Dan Burton said he had not "found anything that would preclude talking" to the Mujahadeen, which supported the holding of American hostages at the

U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979. Mr. Burton, a staunch anti-Communist, said that while the Mujahadeen may not be pro-American, he has no evidence that the Muslim group is pro-Soviet. Washington ought to be in touch with people trying to rid Iran of Khomeini, he said.

Mr. Burton's ally in Congress is Democratic Representative Mervyn Dymally, who has complained that the State Department's strong statements against the Mujahadeen may have been related to the secret sale of U.S. weapons to the Khomeini regime.

In a March 12 letter to Richard Murphy, an assistant secretary of state, Mr. Dymally said the State Department "appears to have been motivated by operatives of the NSC (National Security Council) to embark on a programme to discredit the efforts of a substantial number of members of Congress" who had expressed support for the resistance movement.

Mr. Dymally's letter was prompted by an item in the presidentially appointed Tower Commission's report on the secret sale of weapons to Iran and the possible funneling of money to the Nicaraguan rebels known as contras.

The Tower report contained a letter purportedly written by Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian middleman in the weapons deal, to a contact in Iran.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme review
16:00	Cartoons (Finnish)
16:25	Children's programme
17:10	Walt Disney
17:35	The Researchers
18:00	Agriculture in Saudi Arabia
18:15	Arabic series
19:20	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Message from Cairo
20:45	Arabic series
21:35	Local programme
22:35	Arabic series
23:00	News in Arabic
23:45	Series Cont.
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	"Leimol secret"
19:00	News in French
19:15	Arabic series
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:10	Documentary: "A gentle way with cancer" (eps. 6)
22:00	News in English
22:20	Bestseller: The Last Convertible
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW	
Tel: 77411-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:45	Morning Show Cont.
11:00	Men from the Ministry
11:30	Songs from Movies
12:00	News Summary
12:45	Readings
13:30	Pop Session
13:45	News Summary
14:00	Pop Session
14:10	News Bulletin
14:30	Follow the Wind
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News in Summary
16:45	Instrumentals
16:50	Old Favourites
17:00	Jordan Weekly
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:45	Rock Profile
19:30	Music
19:50	News Desk
19:55	Date with a Star

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Carol Younis, at Alfa Art Gallery runs through April 16.	
* An art exhibition by Mohammad Qalouqah, at the Spanish Cultural Centre, Amman (until April 18).	
* An art exhibition by Dutch artist Hugo de Reede at the Petra Art Gallery.	
* Ceramics exhibition by Jim Mawoo at the British Council (until April 10).	
* An art exhibition entitled Byzantium and Omayyads during the early beginning of Islam. Exhibits by Samra and El Fedkin at the French Cultural Centre (until April 23).	
FILM	
* "Die delegation" at 8:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267	
American Centre, Tel. 644371	
British Council, Tel. 6361478	
French Cultural Centre, Tel. 637009	
Goethe Institute, Tel. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre, Tel. 64203	
Spanish Cultural Centre, Tel. 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre, Tel. 639777	
Hayra Arts Centre, Tel. 6671816	
Husseini Youth City, Tel. 641793	
Y.W.C.A., Tel. 64251	
Amman Municipal Library, Tel. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library, Tel. 843355	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hayra Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum. Jewellery and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Islamic countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustafa Jaber, Larnaca, Cyprus. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630126.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 816334, 817334.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lurwibdeh, Tel. 677440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661777.	
Terzian Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Lurwibdeh, mass in Italian language, mass every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 711331.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 677440.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 712261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 717751.	
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, Tel. 677524.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smith), Tel. 811295.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (05) 3230-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
18:00	Amman (RJ)
18:20	Cairo (RJ)
18:40	Damascus (RJ)
19:00	Kuwait (RJ)
19:20	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:40	Cairo (RJ)
19:50	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:55	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
19:55	London, Geneva (RJ)
19:45	Bangkok (RJ)
19:45	Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)
19:40	Baghdad (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
08:25	Karachi (PK)
11:35	Cairo (MS)
12:00	Sana'a (YV)
13:40	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

Arab, foreign psychiatrists discuss latest advances in mental health care

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prominent Arab and foreign psychiatrists gathered here on Tuesday to discuss wide ranging issues related to their specialisations including the latest advances in biological and child psychiatry, drug dependence and psychotherapy.

The three-day pan-Arab congress, which was inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor, will discuss a total of 100 working papers in a bid to highlight the latest developments in this field.

More than 200 doctors and educationalists from 18 Arab countries and foreign countries and organisations crowded the main auditorium of the Royal Cultural Centre to attend the opening ceremony of the long-awaited conference. The last congress was held in Cairo in 1979. Political circumstances resulting from the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David peace accord led to an eight-year delay in convening the third pan-Arab assembly on psychiatry.

The assembly is organised by the Jordan Association of Psychiatrists (JAP), the Arab Federation of Psychiatrists (AFP) and the World Psychiatric Association (WPA).

In his keynote address to the opening ceremony, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh paid tribute to Queen Noor's keen interest in and constant support for upgrading the situation of integrated psychiatric care in Jordan and to improve the conditions of all medical and administrative manpower working in the field.

One week ago, Queen Noor inaugurated Jordan's first-ever comprehensive National Centre for Mental Health (NCMH), marking a new stage of development in the area of treatment, care and rehabilitation offered to psychiatric and mentally ill patients in the Kingdom. The NCMH includes Jordan's first detoxification ward for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and alcoholics.

"Her Majesty's presence today is a manifestation of her sincere appreciation for all workers in the field of psychiatry and for all efforts exerted to improve psychiatric care given to the citizens of Jordan," said Dr. Hamzeh.

Referring to his ministry's efforts over the past year and its



Her Majesty Queen Noor on Tuesday attends the opening session of a pan-Arab conference on psychiatry (Petra photo)

progress in the area of psychiatric health care, Dr. Hamzeh said that 12 psychiatric clinics have been opened throughout Jordan in addition to the NCMH. The minister, who chairs the National Committee for Psychiatric Health Care (NCPHC), set up in 1985 to determine the policy of psychiatric health care in Jordan, expressed hope that the third congress would further consolidate the participant countries' march in extending more psychiatric health care to citizens.

Chairman of the congress Adnan Al Takriti presented Her Majesty the conference shield in appreciation for her patronage of the three-day event. In his speech, Dr. Takriti, who is also president of JAP, said the assembly would strengthen international cooperation in psychiatry among all concerned bodies.

The JPA president also hailed the steadfastness of the Palestinian psychiatrists living and working in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Secretary general of the AFP Mahmoud Abdul Gawad also spoke during the opening ceremony. He expressed hope that the AFP would be able to compensate for the eight-year stalemate in its activities in order to upgrade and develop the situation of psychiatric health care in the Arab World in terms of research, treatment and prevention.

Seminars on the sidelines

In addition to the conference's main working sessions, three seminars on Islamic and psychiatric health, psychiatric health care in

the Arab states and medical treatments in this field will be held along the sidelines of the assembly.

The congress' first plenary session held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel discussed four working papers related to the Arab contribution to psychological medicine, psychiatry in Jordan; past and present, psychopathology in the general population; A field survey and the changing nature of neurotic disorders. The four working papers were submitted by Professor Ali Kamal from Iraq, Dr. Mohammad Said Kamal from Jordan, Prof. Kosta Stefanis from Greece and Prof. Russell from England.

The second session on Tuesday tackled seven working papers related to the science of substance abuse in Kuwait; a 25 years review, addicted mothers and babies, the electro-stimulation addition rehabilitation programme and its adaptations in Islamic culture, a psychological study of male cigarette smokers, carbamazepine in effective disorders, and recent advances in the treatment of opium addiction.

Later in the day, the participants heard working papers under the theme "biological psychiatry." The papers touched on the treatment of obsessive-compulsive patients as well as highlighting the specific agonism on dopamine autoreceptors. Another paper discussed biological parameters in aggression.

A symposium on the sidelines of Tuesday's session was dedicated to discussing depression and active life. Professors from Jordan, Egypt, France, Morocco and Spain acted as panellists.

Ministry reviews plans for communications services

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussein Tuesday chaired a meeting to discuss the ministry's projects included in the current five-year national development plan. At the outset of the meeting the minister stressed the need for including remote regions of Jordan in the national postal, telegraphic and telephone services in accordance with a given programme.

During the meeting, which was attended by the ministry's under secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif, directors of communications departments and other senior ministry officials, a general review of the post offices which will be opened in 1987 was made.

The ministry's director of planning submitted a working paper dealing with the constraints that

have impeded opening some of the new centres and post offices and he also submitted proposals for overcoming such problems.

Another report on the fast mail delivery system and the contacts for including more countries in the service was also reviewed at the meeting. To date, Jordan is linked with 20 Arab and foreign countries in the fast mail delivery system which was initiated last year. Directors of ministry departments submitted reports on the work of each section and proposals about training courses and seminars on postal affairs.

The meeting, which was attended by members of the ministry's higher planning committee, decided to hold other sessions on the first Tuesday of every month.

Jaber back from UNCHS conference in Nairobi

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber has returned to Amman from Nairobi, Kenya, where he headed Jordan's delegation to the 10th meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) which opened on April 6.

In a statement upon his return, the minister said that the meetings were particularly important as they were held on the 10th anniversary of the UNCHS and because the delegations discussed pressing issues pertaining to shelter for the homeless.

An address he made on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the conference was regarded as one of the conference's documents and drew support from all delegations, the minister continued. The conference received several resolutions related to the occupied Arab territories and the danger posed to Arab citizens under Israeli rule in view of Israel's continued arbitrary actions and the building of Jewish settlements on Arab

lands, and delegations called for extending help to the people of the occupied Arab lands through Jordan, the minister noted.

He said that the Jordanian-sponsored economic and social programme for the occupied territories was supported by various delegations.

Mr. Jaber outlined Israel's measures against the Arab population in the West Bank to the conference and said that nearly 2,738,000 dunams of Arab-owned land had been seized by the Israelis since 1967. He also pointed out that the Israelis have built 195 colonies and have been depriving the Arabs from proper land for building their own homes. The minister also outlined Jordan's housing programmes to the delegates.

During his stay in Kenya the minister held side meetings with heads of delegations from Arab and foreign countries to discuss housing sector issues. He also met Kenyan officials to discuss questions of common concern to Jordan and Kenya.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Abdullah to patronise Yarmouk event

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein will patronise the festivities to be held at Yarmouk University to mark the Battle of Yarmouk which was a turning point for the Islamic era.

Cabinet forms new board for ARC

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday decided to form a new board of directors for the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) under the chairmanship of the minister of transport. Members of the board will include the corporation's director general as well as representatives from the Ministries of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Transport, Finance, Planning and the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPSC). Two members will represent the private sector.

Muasher reviews plan for investment seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher Tuesday chaired a meeting of a committee in charge of drawing up an orientation programme to be implemented in Jordan on April 25 for promoting the investments in Jordan. During the meeting discussion covered projects in industry and tourism to be covered in the orientation programme. The meeting was attended by the ministry's under secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf and other senior officials.

Holland donates \$468,000 to UNRWA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Dutch government has made a donation of \$468,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), thus raising its 1987 contribution to nearly \$3 million, according to a UNRWA spokesman. The spokesman said that last year Holland made a special contribution of \$669,000 to help implement health and education projects for Palestine refugees in addition to its annual contribution of \$2 million.

Oman, Jordan discuss admin systems

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Sa'duddin Jumaa, secretary general of the prime minister's office, Tuesday met with Mr. Mohammad Ibn Naser Alawi, head of the legislation bureau at the prime minister's office in Oman. During the meeting they discussed the Jordanian system of enacting laws and regulations.

Children to stage musical

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty five children and several professional actors will feature in a musical play, "The Green Path" which is expected to be staged Saturday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The play, which will run for two weeks, tackles several contemporary humanitarian issues through dances, songs and cultural dialogue. The play comes within the framework of a theatrical programme recently adopted by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation with the aim of tapping theatre as a cultural and educational medium for children.

Children leave for festival in Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of 21 children aged 12 to 14 years left for Turkey on Tuesday to take part in an international children's festival due to be held on Thursday. The delegation is led by Mr. Mohammad Outaish, head of the public relations department at the Ministry of Education. The 21-member group will present folklore performances which include songs and national dances.

NRA to take part in mining conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) will take part in a world mining conference to be held in Sweden towards the end of May. Mr. Qasem Al Omari from the NRA's geology and mining department will represent the authority at the five-day conference.

Regent visits Mafraq to involve local teachers in nationwide drive to improve education

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Workshop teams grouping educationalists and teachers have been formed in every governorate to discuss educational problems and means of promoting the educational process in the Kingdom, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, announced Tuesday.

He said that the work done by these teams will pave the way for a general conference to be held soon to conduct a full discussion of the education policy in the country and to formulate recommendations on the curricula and school textbooks as well as the facilities which could help achieve the desired goals.

Prince Hassan was addressing a meeting of educationalists, teachers and heads of education departments at Mafraq in the presence of Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi and Minister of Higher Education Nasereddin Al Assad.

He said that the aim of these meetings is to involve the widest possible base of those concerned with education in the formation of a new educational strategy for the country.

The process of rationalising investment in education requires all of us to pinpoint our priorities and provide means and elements which could help direct students towards careers so that any investment can yield fruit. Prince Hassan pointed out. He said that for this process to be successful, suitable school buildings should replace those which run two shift sessions since the present system places a real burden on those involved in the educational process in Jordan.

Emphasis on quality

Over the years, the government of Jordan have been concerned with providing essential services, including education, to all sectors of the public without any differentiation but this democratic process has not been able to improve the quality of education because the concern was largely on quantity rather than quality, Prince Hassan pointed out. Now, however, the government is directing its attention towards developing quality which holds the most beneficial results for the community, Prince Hassan added.

In order to involve the widest possible base in educational development, Prince Hassan continued, there should be complete and real interaction between all factors involved in educating children, and for this reason the

workshop teams have been formed.

Honouring teachers in the primary stage in schools is a must because such an act would reflect the country's appreciation for teachers' great efforts and would also encourage teachers to contribute even more to the comprehensive development of children and not to remain mere tools of imparting knowledge in the classroom, Prince Hassan said.

Teachers' allowances

He went on to say that teachers of the elementary stage should receive allowances which could serve as incentives for the teachers to handle their role in the best possible manner.

A general discussion followed which several proposals were submitted about the use of educational aids, increasing health services at schools and improving the schools' general environment.

Faculty of Education Sciences at university

Dr. Assad announced that a



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday addresses a meeting of education officials in Mafraq (Petra photo)

CBJ governor leaves for Arab Monetary Fund talks in Rabat

AMMAN (Petra) — The governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), Mr. Hussein Al Qasem Tuesday left for Rabat to represent Jordan in the meetings of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, due to begin on Wednesday.

In a pre-departure statement, Mr. Qasem said that the AMF will discuss an annual report and a general final accounts statement for 1986 as well as electing a new president for the fund for the coming five years. In addition, the delegates will discuss an amendment to the statutes of the fund and an increase in the fund's capital, Mr. Qasem added.

The meeting of the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation will discuss a report by its general director on last year's activities and further expansion of the corporation's programmes.

On Monday Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan left for Morocco to take part in the 16th annual meeting of the council of governors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) which is due to open on April 16.

In a pre-departure statement, Dr. Kanaan said the AFESD has since 1974 granted Jordan loans totalling 60.7 million Kuwaiti Dinars and that these loans financed a number of development projects in the Kingdom, especially in the fields of energy, transport, communications, agriculture, industry and mining.

Last year, AFESD granted Jordan 5.5 million Kuwaiti Dinars in the form of two loans to help finance the Al Zarah-Ghor Haditha road and 2.5 million Kuwaiti Dinars to develop the Hammad Basin area near the Syrian, Iraqi and Saudi borders, Dr. Kanaan said.

The two-day meeting will discuss a report on the fund's performance in 1986 and a general budget for 1987.

S. Korean parliamentarian expresses support for occupied territories plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting South Korean parliamentary delegation, Mr. Jung Chul Kwak, Tuesday promised to convey to his government details and objectives of a Jordanian-sponsored plan for stimulating the social and economic sectors of the Israeli-held Arab territories. He said that this plan is clearly intended to ease the sufferings of the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and added that he would do his best to persuade his country to support this humanitarian project.

Gulf war

Referring to the Gulf war, Mr. Lawzi said that it constitutes a real danger to the whole area and he said that the Iranian aggression on Iraq is directly connected to Israel's occupation of Arab lands and its continued aggression on Arab countries.

Mr. Lawzi praised existing Jordanian-South Korean relations and expressed hope that they would witness further development through the implementation of joint projects.

Mr. Lawzi also called on the South Korean people to express support and backing for just Arab causes.

Several House members spoke at the meeting and reviewed developments in the Middle East. They also urged the South Korean government to extend moral and material support to Jordan to enable the Kingdom to extend assistance to the people of the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Kawk and his delegation were later received by Mr. Rizk Al Bataineh, the deputy speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, with whom they discussed Middle East issues.

Mr. Bataineh expressed hope that South Korean parliamentarians would support Jordan's endeavours for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East question.

Have you seen this man?

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has called on all citizens to assist the forces in giving any possible information on outlaw Mohammad Tawfiq Abdul Rahman Abu Al Asha'er, 42, who escaped from an Amman court while giving his testimony there.

The outlaw, who was born in Russeif, currently lives in Jabal Al Abiad. He has a dark tanned complexion and thick mustaches is heavily built and 180 centimetres tall.

The Public Security Department urged the outlaw to surrender. It also called on all those who may have any information



on his whereabouts to contact the nearest police station. Those who conceal information about his whereabouts will be prosecuted, the department said.

PLO factions continue dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

turned down an urgent summons by Mr. Assad to Damascus earlier this week, would depend on whether the Algiers meetings produced an agreement that the PLO would end all its contacts with the Egyptian government would declare as null and void the Amman session of the PNC. "Damascus will not prevent any faction from attending the PNC, but it will also not encourage any faction to do so," the sources quoted the Syrian message as saying.

George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the Damascus-based factions attending the talks here, addressed the morning session on Tuesday of the Palestinian national dialogue.

Dr. Habash, hitherto an avowed opponent of Mr. Arafat, was said to have indicated new flexibility in his address, although he had not dropped his demand that the PLO "closes its Cairo gate," meaning contacts with the Egyptian government. Dr. Habash said the restoration of the unity of the PLO was "the top priority for the PFLP at this stage."

However, he said, "the goal of unity should not be separated from sound and strong basis for national Palestinian unity."

The PFLP leader said the reconciliation efforts had gone "a long way towards the restoration of this unity after Mr. Arafat announced Fateh's agreement to abrogate the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordan-PLO agreement." The PLO chairman made the announce-

ment at a closed meeting on Monday.

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — another Damascus-based faction — also addressed Tuesday's meeting. Mr. Hawatmeh, who has been playing a leading role in efforts for ending the differences between Fateh and the PFLP, also indicated that Dr. Habash was showing new flexibility after Mr. Arafat's announcement.

Reliable sources said Mr. Hawatmeh and Sulaiman Najjib, leader of the Palestinian Communist Party, was working on towards arriving at a formula which would satisfy both Fateh and the PFLP concerning the PLO's relations with Egypt and clearly define political and organisational constraints on the PLO leadership against any contact with Cairo that would violate the PLO position on the basis for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem and the PLO's right to armed resistance against Israel.

Despite the optimistic signs and the cordial atmosphere at the meetings here, it appeared on Tuesday that the ultimate goal of convening the PNC was not exactly achieved. While some observers believed that the PFLP had indeed indicated its commitment to attending the council session, some others believed that the controversy over the PLO's relations with Egypt could prove to be a time-bomb that could undermine all efforts towards holding the PNC as scheduled.

Mrs. Boeker hosts charity function

AMMAN (J.T.) — The wife of the American ambassador to Jordan, Mrs. Margaret Boeker, held a garden tea party at her home in Amman on Tuesday to raise contributions to benefit the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. Addressing the party was society President Princess Majida, wife of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid. She outlined the objective and the services of the society and its projects. She also expressed appreciation for Mrs. Boeker and the guests for their support for the society. She said that the society, which was founded in 1971, gives care to more than 100 children, mostly orphans or handicapped who cannot attend normal schools. The society offers full accommodation to 40 such children and partial accommodation to others.

His Majesty King Hussein contributed a piece of land for the society to build a centre which was inaugurated in 1984 and which was financed by Oman through the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund.

Tindemans arrives

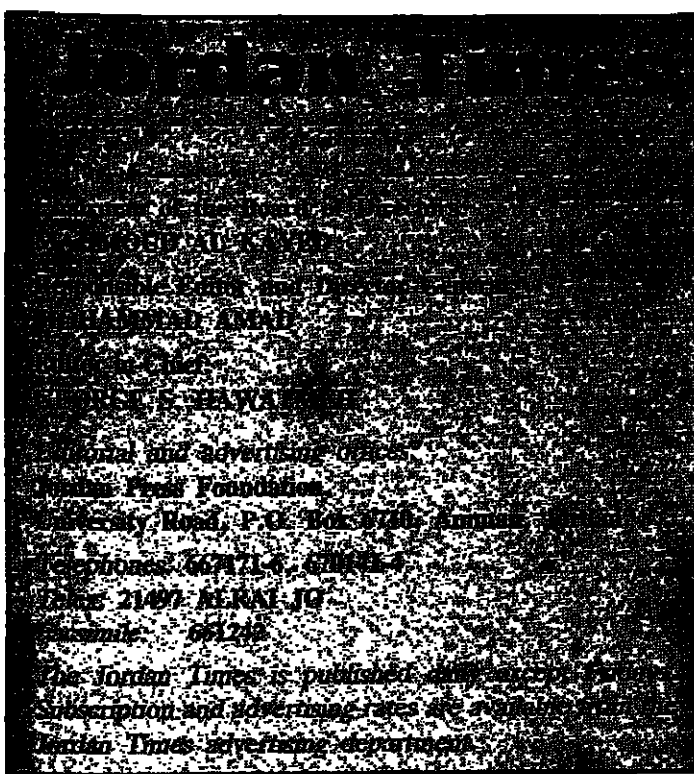
(Continued from page 1)

After Amman, the Belgian minister is scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia and then Egypt.

His Majesty King Hussein is on a tour to secure further support for the conference idea. Mr. Tindemans said recently that the King's current trip to Morocco, The Netherlands, Belgium and Britain could be "decisive in determining whether an international conference is feasible."

The King met Mr. Tindemans in Brussels on April 7 and told a news conference he wanted Europe to play a bigger role in pushing for a Middle East settlement.

Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Masri briefed heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Jordan on the outcome of the European tour by King Hussein. Mr. Masri briefed the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions on his visit to the United States in the company of Prime Minister Rifai and the talks they held with U.S. administration officials.



Save our children

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor set a good example for all Jordanian women and our society at large when she called at a health centre in the outskirts of Amman on Monday to receive immunisation against the neo-natal tetanus disease. The Queen's initiative, marking the launching of a new drive in Jordan's national immunisation campaign against two major killer diseases — measles and neo-natal tetanus — reflects Her Majesty's personal concern and that of Jordan at the top level, over the safety of our children, in order to protect them from inevitable death caused by major killer diseases. These diseases, namely tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and measles, claim the lives of 600 children a day in the Arab World, and 8,000 children a day throughout the world. In other words, these diseases kill one child every two minutes, thus making their global annual death toll come to 3.5 million children a year. Measles and neo-natal tetanus coverage in Jordan had been particularly low compared with vaccination against the other diseases, and as such we can only hope that the new push would succeed in encouraging more Jordanian women inoculated against them.

The deaths caused by the major killer diseases in only four days almost equal the toll caused by the atomic bomb that was dropped on the Japanese town of Hiroshima. These shocking facts unfortunately have not so far received the due attention and response they deserve at the universal level, as millions of children are still needlessly dying without their deaths being considered big and shocking news as is the case when a plane crashes or an earthquake takes the lives of people in certain parts of the world.

It is time we directed special attention to these silent emergencies which claim more lives than wars do; and it is time that we here in Jordan and the rest of the Arab World embarked on concerted action to save our children from the worst effects of killer diseases.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel shows its real face

FOR the second time within one week the Israelis show their true criminal face in the occupied Arab territory. They have destroyed and pillaged Qalqilia and Birzeit, two Arab towns in the occupied territory, killing and wounding their residents and burning their trees and crops in total defiance of the world community and disregard to any principles. We do not believe that the international community requires more evidence about Zionist racism and about the blood thirsty invaders of our land who continue to exercise terrorist and repressive measures against the Arab population. The heroic resistance of the Arab people is turning the military machinery of the occupation authorities into a mockery through their continued struggle and their steadfastness. The Arab residents are continuing to resist repressive actions by Zionists bent on destroying Arab property and killing and wounding Arab inhabitants. The Israeli crimes are being committed in the occupied territory while the whole world continues to hear and watch, and those who claim to be keen on safeguarding human rights remain silent about such atrocities committed by a state that they call democratic and civilised. The attacks on the Arabs and their property in the West Bank resemble a movie picture with the marauders pillaging and looting an area where they also leave a trail of destruction behind. We salute the Arab people under Israeli occupation and say that after this round they will no doubt come out stronger and more determined to pursue the struggle for freedom.

Al Dustour: Struggle for freedom continues

THE barbaric attacks on the Arab population and the destruction of Arab property in the West Bank came in reply to the burning of one car owned by a Jewish settler who ventured into the city of Qalqilia. The Israelis and the Zionist settlers did not need an excuse for committing their new crimes in Qalqilia and Birzeit nor did they need any preparation for their action because they have already planned to get rid of the Arabs through hysterical actions as those that were committed over the past two days. The reply to calls from the Arab population to regain their rights was fire and destruction and killing and wounding of university students. The Israelis are drunk with their arrogance and blinded by their fanaticism that they cannot but impose such repressive rules on the Arabs who are only armed with faith, stones and their hands. With more crimes, the Israelis hope to stifle the spirit of resistance and struggle among the Arabs, but it is clear for all that the more repressive actions are committed the more determined the Arabs will be in their resistance, steadfastness and struggle for freedom.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel escalates repressive measures

THE Israelis on Monday added one more crime to their record over the past 20 years of occupation in the West Bank. They killed one student from Birzeit University and wounded seven others with their bullets and their war machine. Their crime in Birzeit is no different from that committed in Qalqilia the day before, and the long series of crimes committed against the Arabs ever since the creation of the Jewish state in Palestine. The new crime is part of the escalating Israeli repressive measures being directed against the Arab people under occupation, and is an extension of the atrocities and acts of terrorism committed against the Arab people in all the other towns and villages in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The Israelis, the Zionist settlers with their armoured cars and their guns and bombs will never be able to stifle the spirit of resistance and the struggle of the Arab population; and the iron fist policy will end up in total failure. The more brutal the Israelis become the harder will be the resistance which is a rightful act for people seeking freedom and liberation from occupation.

A bogus plot to kill Reagan — another case of manipulation

By Lillian Craig Harris

THE full picture of Israel's efforts to manipulate American policy towards the Arabs remains obscure, but additional bits of the mosaic have recently been uncovered. Thanks to the Iranagate revelations, evidence is at last being made public of an Israeli role in another dramatic American fiasco, the 1981 hysteria over alleged plans by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to assassinate Ronald Reagan. This evidence points towards an Israeli-sponsored disinformation campaign successfully directed at the United States.

... an unidentified third party had mounted a disinformation effort ... to keep U.S. anger focused on Libya.

Very early in the Reagan administration, it became clear that policy toward Libya would be almost exclusively in the hands of persons who were determined to teach Libya a military lesson in humility. There was a holy cause in which one could combat at once terrorists, Soviets and Arabs, three well-known sources of international disorder, anti-Americanism, and anti-Zionism.

Several individuals in this inner circle, which increasingly centred on the National Security Council, had severe difficulty differentiating between the interests of the U.S. and those of Israel. The orchestrated situation reached its first crescendo in 1981 when clandestine reports began to come in that Qadhafi was planning to assassinate Reagan.

Within a few weeks of the first reports, the State Department's bureau of intelligence and research (INR) alerted the secretary of state to the probability that an unidentified third party had mounted a disinformation effort intended to keep U.S. anger focused on Libya. This INR memorandum vanished into the void, however, as the Reagan ideologues seized on the reports of Libyan plotting as grist for the aggressive policy upon which they had already decided.

As allegations of a massive "Lib threat" continued to come in from CIA reporting stations in several countries, weekly meetings began in the White House situation room to assess the danger. Every Friday morning representatives of the National Security Agency, the Department of State, the CIA, the Defence Intelligence Agency, the secret services, customs and immigration, treasury and other agencies and departments gathered to write

their hands and compare notes on Libyan "hit teams." The meetings were very high level. White House deputy chief of staff, Michael Deaver, attended, as did Admiral John Pindexter then an NSC staffer. The CIA sent its deputy chief of operations, if not someone even closer to "God."

Phil Stoddard, a pragmatic intelligence professional then a senior INR deputy, showed his contempt for what he labelled "the worry wort meeting," by delegating INR's lowly Libya analyst (me) as the State Department representative. This snub went undetected in the general euphoria surrounding the government's united effort to save democracy from the forces of evil. The bogus clandestine reports eventually cost the U.S. government millions in wasted time and unnecessary security measures — to say nothing of diverting attention from affairs of state, including the search for peace in the Middle East. But those of us who attended the Friday meetings most certainly enjoyed ourselves.

When we weren't comparing alibis for terrorists, we discussed such variables as how Qadhafi's friend Carlos could have been sighted in both Washington DC and Paris at the same time. The finest minds in Washington were asked to think how best to protect

Ronald Reagan from the Arab-You-love-to-Hate. If we wanted more information, we gave the intelligence community the order. If we sensed a need, the border patrol hopped to. These were heady days and I began to understand how power can cause otherwise rational human beings to revert to boy's games.

The bogus clandestine reports cost the government millions in wasted time and security measures.

Eventually, when none of the dire reports from "usually reliable source" came true, even the CIA began to query the veracity of all this information. But it wasn't until Iranagate blew the mother lode for information on the alleged Libyan plots was alleged in press reports to be Manucher Ghorbanifar, Iranian arms merchant and international political wheeler-dealer par excellence.

Astonishingly, though Ghorbanifar had been discredited in the eyes of the CIA for his part in the "Lib Threat Capers" — even twice failing a polygraph test — he managed to maintain his standing with various influential

members of the Reagan administration, apparently including CIA Director William Casey. This, we are now told, was due to Israeli intercession on his behalf.

A good summary of the methodology and mentality which allowed American officials to succumb to Israeli manipulation was given by an NSC member shortly before the American bombing of Tripoli last April. Reminded that White House policy assumed not to take into consideration the possible negative implications for Libya, or even for North African security more broadly, this gentleman (now defrocked) assured me that negative consequences for Libya, no matter what, "are in no way a consideration of this administration." Just so.

By then, of course, Ollie North and company already had the bit in their teeth and were moving forward on a variety of clandestine fronts for which the potential negative effects had not been considered. The Israelis could not have been happy over the prospect that Qadhafi, whose image as the face of Arab evil is very useful, might be blown away by U.S. bombers. But they must have been overjoyed by the American descent into violence against the Arabs. To an even greater extent than the earlier U.S. naval bombardment of Lebanon, the air attack on Libya

represented success for Israeli policy. There could have been no better way to deflect U.S. criticism of Israel's own violent policies, in particular violence against Lebanon, against Iraq (the nuclear reactor), and against Tunisia (the PLO headquarters).

But there's one more bit of the mosaic. Having forfeited some of their best allies in Washington, the Israelis are now apparently casting about for ways to make up the loss. According to Abu Abdullah, London representative of the Libyan National Salvation Front (LNSF), Israel has recently approached several anti-Qadhafi exile groups offering both funds and information in exchange for "a relationship." The LNSF says it rebuffed the Israeli ploy which it believes must stem from a desire to influence exile activities and to open a channel to those who, should they eventually come to power, could perhaps be persuaded to take a less antagonistic posture toward Israel.

This is all very curious and even a bit sad particularly in light of Abu Abdullah's criticism of recent U.S. policy toward Libya and his plaintive remark that, "We never knew the U.S. didn't have any contacts in the Libyan military." That, of course, was a lesson we should all have learned back in 1981 — Middle East International, London.

Medium-range missiles best hope for arms deal but problems remain

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

MOSCOW — Medium-range missiles present the best prospect of a U.S.-Soviet arms deal in the near future but major obstacles remain to be overcome as Secretary of State George Shultz starts three days of talks in Moscow.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sought to address the main outstanding problem when he offered last week immediate talks on missiles that fall just short of the medium-range category.

But his proposal, in a speech in Prague on Friday, apparently failed to meet the fears of leading NATO countries that an agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) will leave them vulnerable to Soviet shorter-range rockets.

INF missiles are those with a range of 1,000-5,000 kilometres and include the Soviet SS-20 and U.S. cruise missiles and Pershing-2. The shorter-range missiles mentioned by Gorbachev have a range of 500-1,000 kilometres.

Arms control is expected to be the dominating theme of Shultz's

visit.

Apart from medium-range missiles, East and West are also discussing long-range strategic missiles, space arms, chemical weapons, nuclear testing and conventional forces, but none of these talks appear close to agreement.

When the U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva adjourned on March 26, the two sides were agreed on a deal that would abolish the 270 triple-warhead SS-20s and 316 single-warhead Pershing-2s currently deployed in Europe.

Each side would be allowed to retain 100 medium-range warheads in Soviet Asia and the United States respectively.

Prospects for an INF agreement improved after Gorbachev conceded in February that it need not depend on accords in the two other areas under discussion in Geneva — strategic weapons and space arms.

But, since then, the negotiations have bogged down over the short-range question.

Washington says that in the 500-1,000 kilometres bracket, the Soviet Union has up to 150 mod-

ern SS-12s and SS-23 missiles within range of Western Europe.

It says it has nothing comparable although some counts include 72 ageing Pershing-1s based in West Germany which can be fitted with nuclear warheads held by U.S. forces.

A draft INF treaty presented by the United States last month called for equal ceilings for both sides on short-range missiles, which would in effect allow the West to build up to Soviet levels. The Soviets rejected this proposal.

Gorbachev's latest offer showed awareness of the short-range problem, but was unsatisfactory to NATO on at least two counts.

While the Americans want short-range constraints as part of an INF treaty, the Soviet leader proposed separate talks on the grounds that linkage could hold up an INF deal. In the U.S. view, the Kremlin would have no incentive to reach a short-range agreement once an INF accord was achieved.

Gorbachev also proposed an interim freeze by both sides on short-range systems, but the West

says this would enshrine the existing Soviet superiority.

Some officials in Britain, West Germany and France are also worried by the whole trend of the arms control dialogue.

The West raised short-range missiles as an objection to an INF deal but Gorbachev's offer of talks to do away with such missiles has raised Western fears of a steady advance towards the denuclearisation of Europe.

This is a stated Soviet objective, but it alarms NATO, whose basic strategy of "flexible response" means it reserves the right to use nuclear weapons against a massive Warsaw Pact attack with conventional forces.

To deal with the problem, the United States has proposed converting its Pershing-2s to shorter-range use, but the Soviet Union has vigorously opposed this.

Talks on strategic weapons are deadlocked over the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) and Soviet objections to it. Moscow says it will not accept any accord on long-range missiles until the SDI dispute is resolved. The essential difference is that



Washington would like an agreement to deploy the futuristic "Star Wars" weapons being researched under SDI after a certain time-limit had elapsed, while Moscow wants to block the programme.

The status of other arms control talks is as follows: Nuclear testing — the United States and Soviet Union cannot agree on the aim of their talks. Moscow says it is a total test ban, but Washington says it is how to verify existing treaties limiting the size of tests. The United States says it will continue testing as long as it depends on nuclear

weapons. Chemical weapons — The West has welcomed a new Soviet candour about its possession of such weapons. But 40-nation talks in Geneva have not yet reached agreement on ways of verifying a chemical weapons ban.

Conventional forces — NATO and Warsaw Pact officials in Vienna are discussing a mandate for new talks on Europe-wide force reductions. But Gorbachev's call in Prague for 35-nation talks on tactical nuclear arms and conventional forces and weapons appeared to signal impatience with these discussions.

Britain acquires an insight into Soviet thinking

Margaret Thatcher, Britain's prime minister, is now home after her visit to Russia. Peter Riddell says that the main result has been to give Whitehall a much clearer idea of how the new Russian bureaucratic mind works.

LONDON — After all the cheers and celebrations what has really been achieved by the visit of Britain's prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher, to the Soviet Union?

Senior ministers argue that it needs to be put in the perspective of the reappraisal of Britain's relations with the Soviet Union started by Mrs. Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, foreign secretary, shortly after he assumed the post in 1983.

Their conclusion was that East-West relations needed greater attention. There have been problems such as the shooting down of the Korean Airlines plane but there has been gradual progress with Mrs. Thatcher's visit to Hungary in 1984, Sir Geoffrey's tours around East European capitals

and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev's successful trip to Britain in December 1984 shortly before he became Soviet leader.

On this view, the Moscow visit came at an ideal time, given Mr. Gorbachev's reform initiatives and what is seen in London as an accelerating tempo of power in the Soviet Union.

The British view is that the Moscow visit has built on this — notably through the 13 hours of separate talks between Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Gorbachev and the eight hours of separate talks between Sir Geoffrey and Mr. Shevardnadze, Russia's foreign minister.

These will in turn lead to a visit to the Soviet Union again by Sir Geoffrey later this year and Gor-

bachev may return to Britain again next year, although a date has not been fixed.

The main result of all these contacts has been to give the British side a much clearer insight — and probably a unique one for any Western government — into the thinking of the Kremlin on a whole range of world problems.

The British government has been quick to spread the word around its allies. A senior Foreign Office official has briefed the rest of NATO and Sir Geoffrey will give a fuller account to an informal meeting of EEC foreign ministers.

Mr. George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State, was briefed before his visit to Moscow.

The essence of the British message to Mr. Shultz was that the Soviet Union is ready to do business with the West on the desired step-by-step basis, particularly on

INF — medium-range nuclear missiles — and chemical weapons.

But there remain considerable problems in the negotiations over short-range nuclear weapons, given the Soviet resistance to the U.S. desire to have a "right to match" the very large Warsaw Pact superiority in this category.

The British belief is that this will confirm Mr. Shultz's existing impression that the Soviet Union is involved in the arms talks "for real" but with hesitations and reservations of which to take account. On this view, the U.S. should be encouraged to press ahead but should not assume everything will fall easily into place.

The British government lays particular stress on the Soviet acceptance of the need to ban chemical weapons, although there remain far-reaching prob-

lems of verification. This is an area where British ministers see special scope to play a leading role.

In all this, it is difficult to assess the British role of the complementary and mutually reinforcing team of Mrs. Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey. Both have been around for some time and Mrs. Thatcher is not only an especially experienced European leader but also has a special relationship

with President Reagan.

British ministers, also, claim that they will be around for some time and this is recognised abroad, not least in Mr. Gorbachev's treatment of Mrs. Thatcher.

After all the excitement and euphoria, there is a clear danger of hubris — but not perhaps as long as Sir Geoffrey remains foreign secretary — Financial Times feature.

Outcome of Yugoslav strikes show power of Croatia

By Peter Humphrey
Reuters

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia — Croatia, the region worst hit by a wave of strikes in Yugoslavia last month, has displayed its powerful clout in the country by winning its way in a row over a wage freeze that triggered the stoppages.

The strikes appear to have subsided after amendments to the controversial February 27 wages law and after parallel price controls were imposed, appeasing this Communist country of 23 million people living amid rampant 100 per cent inflation.

Croatians, unaccustomed to austerity, opposed the freeze in an expression of traditional resistance to any encroachment by the federal government on their relative prosperity compared to Yugoslavia's poorer south.

The average monthly pay in Croatia was 125,000 dinars (\$227) in December, compared with 105,000 dinars (\$190) in Serbia or 80,000 dinars (\$145) in the least developed region, Kosovo, according to official statistics.

Croatia's 1.6 million workforce profits enormously from the tourism revenues of its long Adriatic coast and from having most of Yugoslavia's oil resources.

In its capital Zagreb chic boutiques stand out in sharp contrast to the dull shops of Belgrade and other towns in the south of Yugoslavia. There are scores of private shops and restaurants here, while the south is only hesitantly allowing the private sector to grow.

It was Yugoslavia's inflation, with prices of essential goods soaring daily, that prompted Prime Minister Branko Mikulic to control wages and then prices, along with other economic measures.

Croatia is one of Yugoslavia's six constituent and relatively autonomous republics, and along with its northern neighbour Slovenia makes up the country's most powerful economic region. Its union leaders, party officials, factory directors and local newspapers, were most vocal in challenging the law.

"Croatia is economically powerful. This wasn't so much a

political fight but an economic one. In the end they had their way," a foreign political analyst based in Zagreb told Reuters.

The wages law retroactively and partially froze wages at the average level of the last quarter of 1986, forcing firms to claw back end-1986 pay rises from March wage packets, and pegged any future pay rises to productivity increases.

The amendments made the law more flexible by taking into account the fact that many firms have fluctuating productivity due to seasonal factors or delays in receiving payments from foreign partners, which affect the firms' results on balance sheets.

Croatian officials said here that many firms are still passing on big pay cuts to workers. Nevertheless, the wave of strikes has abated.

They predict, however, that a new surge of strikes could erupt in coming months, due not only to the wages law but also to a new bankruptcy law.

Trade union leaders have said more than 2,000 Yugoslav firms, with almost 600,000 workers,

could be hit by this law, which comes into effect in July and will force unprofitable firms to cut wages to minimum levels, and eventually wind them up if they fail to recover the previous year's losses.

Croatian planning chief Bozo Marenovic was recently quoted as telling visiting journalists that up to 110,000 workers in unprofitable firms in Croatia alone could face pay cuts of up to 50 per cent under the bankruptcy law.

The March strikes were the first industrial action to try to force the federal government to change a law.

Croatian President Ante Markovic told foreign journalists last week that the new amendments on wages were in line with Croatian proposals.

"Government showed a flexibility essential for industries with a seasonal character, such as farming, tourism, building, construction, manufacturing with long-running production cycles, and all those firms which behaved correctly and did not raise wages at the year's end," Markovic said.

LETTERS

High time for educational reforms

AFTER reading Dr. Abu Jaber's articles in the Jordan Times concerning education, I agree wholeheartedly that it's high time to re-evaluate the whole system of education in this country.

Look at the advances made by Japan, a country like Jordan that has very limited natural resources. Their educational system is not perfect but, it is augmented by a social system which respects and values individual achievement. As Dr. Abu Jaber pointed out, Jordan's network of familial ties is fragmented and distorted due to modernisation and fast-paced social change. Hence, it becomes the task of the educational system to address this issue and re-define itself towards a better utilisation of our most important resource, our children, citizens of the future.

At present, we are steeped in a rigid system of rote learning, leading eventually to the rigid high school entry and Tawjihi exams. What is the future of those students not passing these exams? A very limited system of training leading to nondescript, low-paying jobs is their fate. If it is deemed necessary that students are to be eliminated from the formal educational system, it is a natural expectation that they be provided with up-to-date skills training. If we acknowledge that Jordan is suffering the pangs of growth, we cannot fairly expect our children to proceed with a rigorous course of study of which we cannot guarantee the end result. Is it fair to overburden the already stressful teenage years with the disgrace and disavowal which failing to succeed in the examinations bring? And to further fan the flames by thrusting them into menial job training? What about a second chance for "late bloomers"?

I would add in closing that there are numerous experts on education in Jordan and, various experimental methods of teaching are already in progress. There is no need to import a system of expertise to deal with this crisis. Valuable insights and experiences are at our fingertips so we don't have to look very far to find the road to improvement.

As a teacher and a mother, I applaud Crown Prince Hassan's appeal to the nation to make our future bright by developing the natural dignity of our children through meaningful education.

Marianne Nsour
Amman.

سكوا في القدس

In France, new works by 2 writers lament demise of intellectuals

By Richard Bernstein

PARIS — He is known just by his initials, B.H.L., in the way some of the legendary film actors of France, like Fernandel and Raimu, used to be called only by single names, which were emblems of nationwide recognition.

Bernard-Henri Levy, the writer and philosopher, is not a movie star. But he is often pictured in the glossy French magazines in carefully framed profile, or staring slightly downward at the camera with a look of calculated intensity in his eyes, his long hair silhouetted against background lights and his shirt unbuttoned nearly to the waist.

Mr. Levy, 38, is a commentator and thinker about town very much in the French mold, a man who writes about such difficult subjects as Marxism, structuralism, existentialism and freedom, while living a publicly flamboyant life. He admits to a certain narcissism. He is always studiously casual, and is frequently on television and setting all sorts of

fashions.

His 1977 book, "Barbarism With a Human Face," was a sensation in France, a point of repair for the group that was then coming to be known as the New Philosophers, still the dominant current in French intellectual life.

The book marked a decisive rejection of Marxist totalitarianism, which it described in entirely negative terms, something the previous generation of French thinkers, dominated by leftist sentiment, had been loath to do.

Now Mr. Levy has created new controversy, by publishing a slender volume called "Eloge des intellectuels," or "Elegy for the Intellectuals."

The book is both a lament and an accusation against his own kind, in which he argues that the serious thinkers on moral and political issues in France have in recent years lost their historic role. They are suffering a "disgrace," a discredit, a muted disqualification, such that France, the country that invented the concept of the intellectual, "does not know what to think of them

anymore."

"Intellectuals are neither hated nor vilified nor even really denounced," Mr. Levy writes, lamenting past days when French political thinkers were taken seriously enough to be made to suffer for their ideas.

"Elegy for the Intellectuals" is one of two works attracting attention in Paris these days that, taken together, reflect a kind of pause, a sense of alarm, and maybe even a new stage in the life of the mind in France.

Both are marked by varying degrees of nostalgia, pessimism and disillusionment over the intellectual profession, which has been both worshipped and ostracised with a heated sort of passion that itself is one of the chief characteristics of the French people.

The other book, "La Defaite de la Pensée," or "The Failure of Thought," by Alain Finkielkraut, being reviewed together with Mr. Levy's slender volume, is a somewhat thicker, more deliberate, and, according to some, more probing work. One of Mr. Fink-



Bernard-Henri Levy

ielkraut's themes, at times overlapping that of the Levy volume, is the decline of cultural standards.

Mr. Finkielkraut, a 38-year-old writer whose previous books have been widely admired in

France, concentrates on what he sees as an attack on the fundamental values established in the 18th-century French enlightenment.

But his historical excursion is aimed at explaining why, as he sees it, cultural standards have shrunk into insignificance as cultural figures have been transformed from elites of taste and discrimination into creatures of the mass media marketplace.

"The boundary line between culture and entertainment has become blurry," Mr. Finkielkraut writes.

A similar point, although expressed differently, is getting most of the attention in Mr. Levy's book. It is his charge that a group of popular stars have, in the country of Montaigne and Voltaire, Zola and Camus, replaced serious thinkers as the most conspicuous trendsetters, commentators and spiritual guides of France.

Mr. Levy specifically mentions a popular singer of satirical songs named Renaud, who was invited some time ago to appear on

France's highest-brow literary programme. Among the others is Bernard Tapie, a wealthy businessman and the star of a television programme called "Ambition," who has made free enterprise into a glitzy sort of media campaign.

These are "appealing figures," Mr. Levy writes. But in the context of French intellectual history, they mark a decline. They are basically too simple and monotonous.

Yet, Mr. Levy concludes, their prominence signals a real political danger, because, as he puts it, intellectual "clarity," an appreciation of complexity, and the ability to make learned distinctions are among the fundamental conditions of democratic life.

Referring to past figures like Sartre, Camus and Mauriac, Mr. Levy said: "Because they wrote novels, and because their talent was recognised, they were authorised and required to intervene in the issues of the day and to say, rightly or wrongly, what was true and good. This profile is very French." — New York Times

Efforts underway to launch international space studies project

By Duncan Mansfield

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — Mankind's conquest of space will require international cooperation and a pooling of resources, say planners of an educational endeavour called the international space university project.

"We have one chance and only one chance to move into space as one species. Right now," said Peter H. Diamandis, chairman of the project's founding conference this weekend at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"If we move out into space as nationalists with nationalistic interests, it will remain that way."

Some 60 delegates from Canada, the United States, Europe, India, Japan, the Peoples Republic of China and the Soviet Union hope to create a "university" for top graduate students from around the world that would provide advanced instruction in space-related fields.

The aim is both to enhance space curricula and to set the stage for international cooperation.

"It's interdependency that we are trying to build this institution upon," said Todd Hawley, executive director of Space Generation Foundation Inc., a Washington-based non-profit organisation that coordinated the weekend

conference. "It's the whole sense that there's a definitive need at the outset to interlink nations, to pool resources, to create a sense of teamwork in doing things that benefit humanity as whole," Hamley said.

Space university already has gained an impressive list of backers.

Author Arthur C. Clarke is a project trustee, and advisers to the founding conference include Harvard President Derek Bok, MIT President Paul Gray, Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison Schmitt, and Ian Pryke, head of the European Space Agency's Washington office.

And MIT has offered to host space university's first term — a three-month session in the summer of 1988.

Organisers say that with a planned budget of \$1.3 million garnered from corporate and foundation contributors, as many as 100 students will be able to attend.

"The end goal, which I will not put a time factor on but I will say we want to work towards, is having facilities in orbit," said Diamandis, a student jointly pursuing a medical degree at Harvard Medical School and a doctorate in aerospace engineering at MIT.

Swedish spy season opens

Sara Webb reports on a nation's obsession with submarines and other suspicious vehicles making their way from the East as the seas and roads unfreeze.

STOCKHOLM — Come the summer, a new emergency telephone service in Sweden will mark the start of another submarine-sighting season. Anyone who sees a suspicious grey object lurking offshore should head immediately for the nearest telephone kiosk, dial 90000, and report it to the submarine watchdog.

Some Europeans go in for bird-watching, train-spotting or sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The Swedes have an obsession with submarines and other spying vehicles, which most recently have included long-distance lorries from the Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany.

Their fears are not entirely groundless: the famous "Whisky-on-the-rocks affair" in 1981 when a Soviet nuclear-armed Whisky-class submarine ran aground in restricted waters outside the Karlskrona naval base reminded Swedes of the vulnerability of their coastline.

Since then, they have found Soviet mini-submarine tracks around the Stockholm archipelago and spotted what the government euphemistically called "frogmen-like persons" clambering ashore.

And while Moscow archly alluded to Swedish "periscope paranoia" and "underwater hallucinations," members of the public have taken the foreign intrusions extremely seriously.

Armed with a handy leaflet called Our Uninvited Visitors, Swedes can swoot up on how to identify a snorkelling submarine, how to recognise various U-boat silhouettes and what to do in the event of finding one (report the time and place immediately).

Rather surprisingly, there seem to be few hoaxers among those members of the public who call in. The defence staff publishes quarterly updates on the strength of the reports, noting the number

of submarine sightings and suspicious incidents.

The Whisky-on-the-rocks incident soured relations with the Soviet Union, as did the more recent discovery of several dozen bugging devices in the Swedish embassy in Moscow — although the Swedes claim that nothing important could possibly have been overheard as all their top secret conferences are carried out in a completely bug-proof room, known ironically in the charmed circles of the foreign ministry as the Submarine Room.

However, the general public is now so aware that Swedish submarines have to leave base fully submerged or else brazenly flying the Swedish colours in order to prevent sub-spotters jamming the telephone lines within minutes of their departure.

At times, it seems that the public takes a keener interest in these things than Mr. Roine Carlsson, defence minister, who tactlessly referred to Sweden's coastal corvettes — the cutting edge of the country's defence against intruding submarines — as "metal monstrosities," which were not worth wasting money on as they were only used by navy captains for showing off.

He had to spend the next few days apologising profusely on television and radio in order to placate the irate naval staff. More recently, he has been criticised for failing to do anything about another Swedish bugbear: the squadrons of Eastern bloc "spy lorries" which transport goods between Stockholm and the southern Swedish ports of Gothenburg and Malmö.

These have been found meandering down small lanes, miles from the main roads which they are supposed to follow and in some cases suspiciously close to restricted military zones. — Financial Times feature.

Study backs controversial new cancer therapy

By Daniel Q. Haney

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Natural chemicals that boost the body's built-in vigilance against disease may provide a powerful new weapon in the war on cancer, but researchers caution that this promising field is still in its infancy.

In a report published Thursday, doctors from the National Cancer Institute followed up their first highly publicised study on the use of the chemicals with more results to bolster their early optimism.

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita Jr., the institute's head, said the new approach appears to be the most promising treatment available for spreading stages of kidney cancer and malignant melanoma, a lethal skin disease.

But experts also say many important questions remain unanswered about the new approach, which uses the hormone interleukin-2 in a treatment called adoptive immunotherapy.

"We have in front of us all the same things that were in front of the people who first got a response out of cancer chemotherapy" in 1945, said Dr. John R. Durant of the Fox Chase Cancer Centre in Philadelphia.

"Now we've got to figure out why it works; what it's going to work in, how to make it better, what's going to happen when it's mixed with other treatments, how to make it safer, how to make it cheaper."

The therapy uses interleukin-2 to turn ordinary white blood cells into natural killer cells, which seek and destroy cancer. Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg and colleagues at the Cancer Institute found that nearly a quarter of patients with advanced cancer at least partially respond to the experimental therapy.

Using the body's own disease-fighting powers to stop cancer "is an idea that has been around as long as chemotherapy," said Dr. David Parkinson of New England Medical Centre. "But this is the first time that reproducible cancer responses have been seen. And it means the beginning of a new arm to cancer therapy in addition to chemotherapy, radiation and surgery."

However, Dr. Charles G. Moertel of the Mayo Clinic, who sharply criticised the approach in December, remains unimpressed after seeing the latest results.

"There is no evidence that this particular type of treatment either adds to the duration or quality of life of cancer patients," he said in an interview.

"We would hope that as time goes by, this and other biologies (natural chemicals) might eventually begin to meet those important bottom lines. Right now, I think it's research of interest, but it still has a way to go before we can assume it's of substantive value."

Rosenberg, however, says there is now no question that his initial results were real and will be matched by other doctors. "What we have here is hopefully the dawn of a new approach to treating cancer," Rosenberg said. "What it's ultimately going to be able to offer patients with cancer is hard to predict. But when you have a whole new way of dealing with the disease, obviously it opens the possibility for development that could be very meaningful and important."

Rosenberg's latest work reports the results of the therapy on 106 patients with advanced cancer.

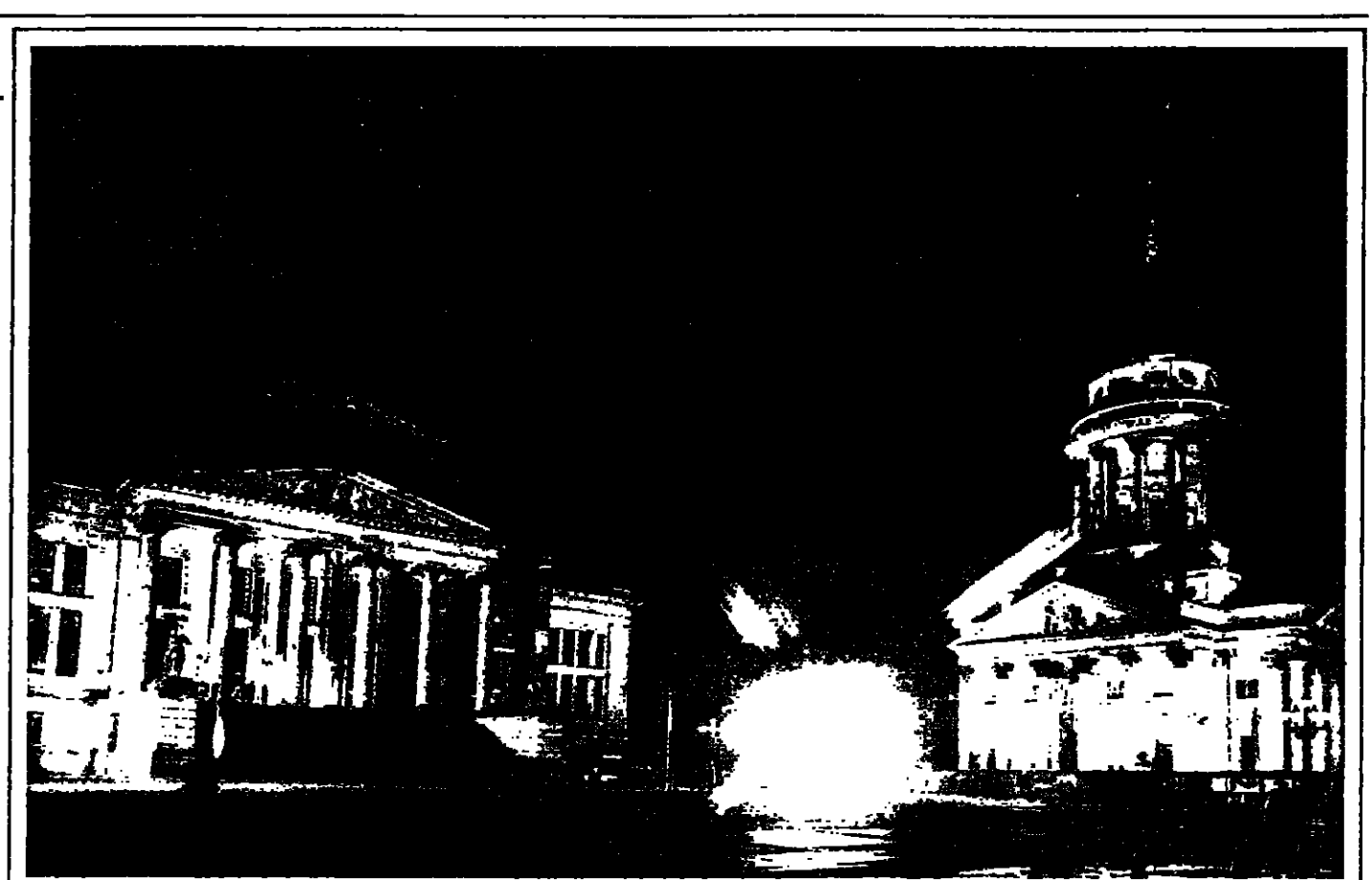
First, their white blood cells were grown in test tubes with interleukin-2. The hormone transformed the ordinary blood into so-called lymphokine-activated killer, or LAK, cells. Then the blood cells were put back in their bodies. Finally, they were bolstered with further injections of interleukin-2. An additional 46 patients were treated with interleukin-2 alone.

Far more complicated and expensive treatment using the LAK cells seemed to work better, producing more than 50 per cent tumour reductions in 22 per cent of the patients, including complete remissions in eight people. Interleukin-2 alone produced substantial tumour reduction in 13 per cent, including one complete remission.

The most impressive response was in a woman with melanoma who has been completely free of disease for more than two years.

The researchers administered as much interleukin-2 as the patients could tolerate.

Side effects included vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure, fluid retention and breathing difficulties. Four deaths, two from infections and two from heart attacks, were attributed to the treatment.



Berlin celebrates 750th birthday

Schauspielsaal concert hall (left) and Französischer Dom (French Cathedral) in Platz der Akademie (Square of the Academy) are festively illuminated. A concert given for guests from home and abroad there on New Year's Eve solemnly opened the celebrations

marking the 750th anniversary of Berlin. Schauspielsaal — the famous Schinkel building which had been destroyed in World War II — was rebuilt and opened as concert hall on October 1, 1984 — ADN.

New supernova returns, more brilliant than ever

By Kevin Noblet

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — A supernova that dimmed a little after its first sighting in February is increasing in brilliance every day, baffling and fascinating astronomers who say their theories will have to be rewritten.

"It is increasing at a steady two-to three-hundredths of a magnitude per day," said Robert Williams, head of the El Tololo Observatory in the Andean foothills 230 miles north of Santiago.

"It's now as bright as some of the dimmer naked-eye stars. It's not among the brightest stars, but the way things are going it may be yet," he said Wednesday. The supernova first was seen on Feb. 23 by another Chilean-

based astronomer, Canadian Ian Shelton of the Las Campanas Observatory. Its appearance electrified stargazers, who turned scores of powerful earth-based and satellite telescopes on the phenomenon.

The new star, which scientists dubbed "1987A," became brighter for five days as expected, and many astronomers predicted it would quickly reach a visual magnitude of 1, or significantly brighter than the North Star.

Observers were disappointed when instead it dimmed slightly.

However, since March 5, its brilliance again has increased, reaching a visual magnitude of 3.63 on Tuesday night, according to Williams and other astronomers. That compares with a lesser magnitude of 4.5 on Feb. 28. The smaller the number, the brighter:

the North Star's magnitude is 2. "There's no precedent for this," Williams said in a telephone interview with the U.S. National Science Foundation.

"It's like the Dow Jones average — it keeps rising and setting new records."

The supernova, created by the collapse and spectacular explosion of a dying star 170,000 light-years away, is the closest to earth since 1604. In most of the Northern Hemisphere, it is hidden from view by the horizon, but it is easily visible south of the equator.

Experts are befuddled by its fluctuating brightness.

"It's going to provide a lot of work for the theoreticians, who will have to do a lot of revising," said Cristiani Stefano of the La

Silla Observatory, near El Tololo.

Scientists have defined two types of supernovas. A Type I supernova is produced by the dense remains of an ordinary star that draws mass from a nearby large star. A Type II supernova is created by the collapse of a giant dying star, acting alone.

Stefano said the new supernova's behaviour appears to be proving the theory that there are more than two types of supernovas.

The supernova may be growing brighter because it is expanding in size more quickly than it is cooling off, Stefano speculated.

The highly energised material known as an envelope, produced by the explosion is moving away from the core at about 6,000 miles a second, he said.

Pluto much smaller than assumed

By Hermann-Michael Hahn

THE American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovered the planet Pluto in 1930. 56 years later, two astronomers from Berlin Technical University, presently working at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) on Mount La Silla, Chile, accurately measured Pluto's diameter for the first time: it is 2,200 kilometres. Thus, this planet is not only the farthest removed from the sun, it is also the smallest in the solar system. In fact, Pluto is not half as big as originally assumed.

Two facts made such an exact measurement possible. First, the American astronomer James Christy located a Pluto satellite in the summer of 1978. Second, it subsequently turned out to be possible in the second half of the 1980s for astronomers on earth to have a side-view of the satellite as it travelled sharply inclined toward Pluto's orbital plane. Thus, it should prove possible during a single orbit to establish the extent to which the two celestial bodies covered, i.e. eclipsed, each other. The reduction of total light during this process would permit direct conclusions to be drawn concerning the dimensions of the two bodies in question. The technique has long been used to

determine diameter in the case of closely located stars.

Preliminary test measurements in April 1985 revealed that the orbital path of Charon, as Christy had dubbed his discovery, was not lined up precisely enough with the earth at that point in time. The situation did not improve until the spring of 1986.

When, on the night of April 2, Manfred Pakull and Klaus Reinisch sighted Pluto with a 2.2-metre mirror on loan to ESO from the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (Max Planck Society), they registered a light reduction to the order of about 0.2 as the shadow of the Pluto satellite crossed the planet's surface. Two-and-a-half orbits later, on April 18, the Berlin guest astronomers, who were now using a 1.5-metre telescope made available by DESMA, were able to track Charon as it disappeared behind Pluto.

A careful evaluation of the light curves provided the most accurate values ever obtained on the respective sizes of Pluto and Charon, with a diameter of 1,160 kilometres, is half the size of Pluto. It moves around the planet in an almost circular orbit at a distance of 19,000 kilometres. — The German Research Service, Bonn.

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Jordan Rally rolls off today

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Exciting and thrilling as rallying events in Jordan are to enthusiasts, this year's Jordan rally holds out all promises of being unique in more ways than one for the participants and rally fans as well as the organisers of the event.

The 1,360-kilometre, three-day event that kicks off from the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman at 4:30 this afternoon brings together for the first time in Jordan driving talent from the Arab Gulf, Lebanon and Cyprus to Finland and the Soviet Union to match with the skills of Jordanian drivers.

Leading the list of the 47 participants — a record in itself for a rally in Jordan — are familiar names like Qatar's Saeed Al Hajri, the Arab World's number one rally ace, the UAE's Mohammad Ibn Sulayyem, the reigning champion of the region, Finland's Lasse Lampi who figures among the top eight rally drivers in the world, Michel Saleh of Lebanon, a veteran who has consistently fought to gain top slots in various Middle East events, Antoine Georgiou, a noted rally driver from Oman, and Christos Eliades, one of the top drivers from Cyprus. Ahmad Khalifeh and Abdullah Omar Al Majid of the UAE, Ahmad Al Zafiri of Kuwait, Ibrahim Madhloom of Bahrain, Mohammad Sbitan and Ahmad Ilawi of Saudi Arabia, and Lester Fetherstonehaugh of Britain are others to be watched out for resounding performances.

Added to the already impressive arena is a team of five top Soviet drivers, whose thundering Lada 2105 VFTS would be breaking new ground in the Jordanian countryside and desert over the next three days. The Lada team includes some of the most skilled and renowned Soviet drivers such

as 11-year national champion Stas Broundza, eight-time national champion Eougenius Tsoumavitchus and Ivars Tsoune, who won the national championship twice between 1983 and 1986.

Against such heavy competition, Jordan is lining up the talents of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the reigning national champion, Nabil Karam, Hani Bisharat, Haile Aguiar — a veteran with more than 30 years of driving experience — George Khayyat, Haitham Mufti and Issa Halabi. In addition, there are another 23 entrants from Jordan, some of whom have rendered excellent performances in past rallying events in the Kingdom.

However, conspicuous by their absence in the Jordanian list are George Haddad and Nabil Dirani. For the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), the organisers of the event, this year's Jordan Rally, the third leg of the 1987 Middle East rally championship, will be the culmination of years of concentrated efforts towards securing a place for Jordan Rally in the world championship series. FISA, the international authority in rallying, is sending senior observers to assess the conduct of the event for possible inclusion of Jordan Rally as one of the 12 events of the 1988 world championship.

Jordan Rally, a regular annual event since 1981, secured FISA recognition as a world class event since 1982 and the RACJ was

informed last year that the 1987 rally would be the determining factor in securing a place for Jordan in the world championship series.

Some RACJ officials say the 1987 rally has brought an unusual kind of cooperative spirit among the various concerned authorities who have thrown all their weight behind the RACJ's efforts and coordinated with the club to make the sportive event an all-out success in every way.

"People have realised how important it is to Jordan to secure a slot in the world series," commented an official. "They are offering their utmost cooperation to make the rally, as well as future events in the Kingdom, an example in organisation and conduct."

From Hajri's Porsche 911 SCRS, Ibn Sulayyem's Toyota Celica, Prince Abdullah's Opel Manta and Lampi's Mitsubishi station to Saleh's Audi Quattro, Aguiar's Nissan 240 R.S., Fetherstone's Volvo 240 T and Abdul Ilah Malhas' Land Rover Pick-up, most of the participant vehicles are specially-built to withstand the tough, gruelling journey across the Kingdom.

A further split-up of the entry list shows that Toyota leads the list with a total of eight entries — from Celica Twincam Turbo to Celica G.T. — followed by Nissan with seven 240 R.S. and one Datsun 210, Lada with six entries — the five-member Soviet team is further complemented by Maen Al Haded's identical Lada 2105 VFTS — and Opel with six entries — four of them Manta 400.

Three Daihatsu chariants and one each of Daihatsu Charade and Daihatsu Rocky, two Mitsubishi, two Volvo, one Seat Ibiza, one Mazda 929 and one Renault 17 complete the line-up.

Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh will flag off the cars

from the Roman Amphitheatre on a course towards the ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash in the north and back to the Amman Marriott Hotel. The vehicles will race off towards Petra on the second day and regroup at the Petra Forum Hotel for the night.

The starting point for the third and final day of the event is at the Petra Guest House at Qatraneh from where the cars will begin the return leg to Amman through the King's Highway, one of the oldest trade routes in the world.

Special stages where the drivers will face the real test of driving skills and vehicle stability are included throughout the three-day race.

According to RACJ press releases, it is not only the legal FISA definition that makes the Jordan Rally an international event but also the exceptional nature of the terrain involved in its route.

The mountainous zigzags on the Amman-Jerash leg resemble those of the Monte Carlo Rally and the gravel special stages dotted with olive trees are similar to those of the Acropolis Rally, says the club. It also notes that the desert terrain in Jordan is similar to that of the Safari Rally and the "soft routes" — regular road sections — resemble part of the Paris-Dakar Rally.

A Finnish team representing the Thousand Lakes Rally of Finland, one of the current 12 world championship series, is here as unofficial observers at the Jordan Rally. The delegation is encouraging Jordanian and other drivers to take part in the 1987 Thousand Lakes Rally which is scheduled to be held on Aug. 26.

The Finnish event enjoys distinction since many of Finland's world reputed drivers, including Timo Salonen, Markku Alen and Juha Kankkunen, "graduated" from the Thousand Lakes Rally



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah during a training session for the 1987 Jordan Rally with his trainer Jimmy McGray (second from left), a British expert on rallying who has notched a series of wins

in the European circuit, and Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team-mates Amr Bilbeisi (third from left), who navigates the Prince's Opel Manta, and Nabil Karam, driver of the number two car in the team.

before ahead to win other legs of the world championship series.

Competition is expected to be keen in the Jordan Rally between Hajri and Ibn Sulayyem. Hajri, who is staging an impressive comeback to the Middle East rallying circuit after an absence of one

year during which he went on the European circuit, has already won the first two legs — Qatar and Kuwait — of the 1987 championship.

Ibn Sulayyem, who won the 1986 title, seems determined not to lose sight of the Qatari rallying ace and is closely behind. But, both of them have to contend with the challenge put in by Lampi and the Soviets, not to mention Prince Abdullah, who secured third overall place in the 1986 Jordan Rally.

Both Prince Abdullah and Lampi, though the latter is driving a car of a category different to that of Hajri and Ibn Sulayyem, can upset the plans of both Gulf drivers with an overall first place victory in the Jordan Rally.

But then, Jordan is home territory for Hajri, who says he has a soft corner for the Jordan Rally, the only Middle East event he entered last year, thus leaving the ground open for Ibn Sulayyem for the overall Middle East championship. Hajri has won the Jordan Rally three times, 1983, 1985 and 1986.

In this year's race for the Kingdom's national championship, Prince Abdullah tops the list with his victory in the Jan. 29 Jerash Rally, the first of eight national

events and six foreign events included in the championship series. The Prince entered the Feb. 19-20 Qatar Rally with Nabil Karam and Issa Halabi making up the rest of the three-member Jordanian team but had to abandon the race due to mechanical problems.

Karam, his teammate in the Royal Jordanian Silk Cut Team, secured fifth overall place in Qatar. Prince Abdullah did not enter the March 19-20 Kuwait Rally.

The next three legs of the Middle East championship are scheduled to be held in Lebanon on Oct. 9-11, Oman on Oct. 28-30 and Dubai on Dec. 3-4. All these events, as well as the Sept. 25-27 Cyprus Rally, make up the Jordan Rally included in this year's national championship.

South Koreans foresee success for '88 Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean authorities said Tuesday they are confident the 1988 Seoul Olympic games will be carried out successfully despite rival North Korea's threat to lead an East Bloc boycott if its demands are not met.

Mr. Shin Doo-Byong, director-general of the foreign ministry's information and cultural affairs bureau, said that with recent encouraging developments, "we became convinced that differences in ideology and political system will not stand in the way of a successfully holding of the Seoul Olympics."

Mr. Shin said that "from formal and informal contacts with sports authorities from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary and other communist nations, we received strong indications that they mean to participate in the Seoul games."

He expressed confidence that China, a long-time patron of North Korea, which nevertheless took part in the recent Asian games in Seoul, would not miss the Seoul Olympics.

He said it was "very encouraging" that after contacting Socialist countries, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch expressed his confidence that "all Socialist countries will participate in the Seoul Olympics."

He called on Pyongyang to participate in the Seoul Olympics by withdrawing "all the preposterous demands" that the Seoul games be cohosted by Seoul and Pyongyang, coupled with a threat to boycott the event if its demands are not met.

To ensure a maximum participation in the Seoul games, Mr. Shin said, South Korea has accepted the IOC proposal allowing the North to hold two sports and one event and one preliminary competition.

N. Korea prepares to stage Olympics

On Monday, North Korea said it is still preparing to stage part of the 1988 summer Olympics in Pyongyang, despite disagreement with the IOC over how many events would be staged in the north.

"We are making every effort to offer excellent sports facilities and ensure all conveniences to sportsmen, officials, reporters and tourists in case the Olympic hosting is realised and the Olympic games are held in Pyongyang," North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency reported, quoting a North Korean Olympic committee spokesman.

The agency, monitored in Tokyo, said North Korea is building an Olympic village with more than 10 gymnasiums and stadiums, including a large-scale modern sports complex capable of seating 150,000 people.

The spokesman called for an early fourth round of talks with the IOC in Lausanne, Switzerland, to discuss issues ranging from the number of Olympic events to be held in North Korea to "the name, formation of the organising committee and opening and closing ceremonies of the games."

In February, North Korea accepted "in principle" an offer from Mr. Samaranch and South Korea to stage four Olympic events including table tennis, archery, a cycling road race and some preliminary soccer matches in the north.

But North Korea still is demanding that it be allowed to stage at least eight events and has threatened to lead an East Bloc boycott if its demands are not met.

In March, the agency quoted Mr. Chin Chung Guk, vice chairman of the North Korean Olympic Committee, as saying the north was not rejecting the IOC proposal, but that "our side should host one-third (of the 23 events) in view of the population proportion in the north and the south."

Rehe labours for victory

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (AP) — American Stephanie Rehe worked hard for a 6-3, 6-7, 6-2 victory over Patricia Mercadito of Brazil Monday in the first round of the \$300,000 women's International Tennis Association championships.

In the night matches, Carling Bassett of Canada outlasted American Camille Benjamin 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 and no. 12 seed Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States won 11 of the final 13 games to down Nathalie Herremann of France 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

No. 10 seed Rehe appeared ready to clinch the match, leading 5-3 in the second set before Mercadito rallied to force a tiebreaker, which she won 7-5. But Rehe maintained her composure and captured the third set.

"She (Mercadito) played well and I started to lose my aggressiveness at the end of the second set," said Rehe, who last played in a clay-court tournament a year ago here.

"I think that changed in the third. It was probably good to get a three-setter right away. It was good experience."

In a mild upset Monday afternoon, Helen Kelesi of Canada upended no. 13 seed Laura Gildemeister of Peru 7-5, 6-3. Also, no. 9 Eteri McNeil of the United States stopped Marianne Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-4, 6-1.

"It feels good to have played a match," McNeil said. "Any time you get your first match out of the way, you feel better about it. Now I'm looking forward to the rest of the week."

Wimbledon prize money goes up

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Prize money at this year's Wimbledon tennis championships will rise by 16.5 per cent to a new record of £2.47 million (\$3.5 million), the All England Club announced Tuesday.

A check for £155,000 (\$220,000) will be handed to the winner of the men's singles title, compared with last year's £140,000 (then worth \$196,000). The women's champion will receive £139,500 (\$197,380), against the 1986 figure of £126,000 (then worth \$176,400).

But unlike in previous years, Britain's tax authorities will take a large slice of any winnings under new legislation coming into effect on May 1, only a few weeks before the June 29-July 5 tournament.

Under the new law, foreign players will be taxed at source and asked to relinquish part of any income earned at the championships.

Mr. Chris Gorrings, Wimbledon's chief executive, said the All England Club had been working closely with the tax authorities to arrive at "a sensible and practical agreement on the operation of the new rules."

In principle, competitors will have to give up 27 per cent of

money earned at the tournament, the basic rate of tax in Britain.

But Mr. Gorrings said that before calculating the monies that will be withheld, players would be allowed to claim for a daily deduction for as long as they remained in the tournament.

That, he said, would bring down the taxable amount, and for some players would take them completely outside the scope of the new tax.

Despite the new tax laws, players stand to benefit slightly, officials said, from the pound-dollar exchange rate during the tournament.

For although this year's prize money is calculated on the basis of \$1.42 to the pound, it was likely to be nearer the current rate of \$1.60 by the time payments are made.

"We always pay in pounds but if someone wants his money in dollars, he'll almost certainly get more when he converts the money than he would if he changed it at the current rate," said Mr. Tony Hughes, Wimbledon's financial director.

"People are saying 'aren't the American players lucky.' But they are not really. They suffered badly when sterling depreciated in the early 1980s," he said.

Altogether, Wimbledon's massive prize structure shows an increase of 10.7 per cent in the men's prize fund, while the women's increase is 10.8 per cent.

"While we might be criticised in the current economic climate for increasing (overall) prize money by 16.5 per cent, it has to be remembered that the 1986 championships, as well as being one of the happiest on record, were the most successful to date financially," said Mr. Gorrings.

"The players contributed to that success and it is only right they should receive a fair and adequate reward for their contribution," he added.

Mr. Gorrings said that for some time, the championships management committee had been concerned about the cost of accommodation and travel incurred by competitors — especially the losers of early round matches.

As a result, this year's players will receive £50 (\$80 at the rate of \$1.60) per day to help them defray these costs.

Wimbledon is also introducing an experiment to ease crowd congestion, closing its doors at a spectator limit of 28,000, a reduction of 3,000 on previous years.

17 states to attend swimming contest

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Seventeen nations have confirmed their entries for the second Nikon Pan Pacific swimming championships to be held in Brisbane Aug. 13-16. Australian officials said Monday. Organisers said the definite starters for the event included the four charter nations of the Pan Pacific conference — the United States, Australia, Canada and Japan. The others include Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, China, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia have not indicated if they will be sending teams, officials said.

Lendl, Connors advance in Japan Open tennis

TOKYO (AP) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, playing his first tournament in five weeks, beat American Richard Matsuzewski 6-4, 6-4 Tuesday in the second round of the \$605,000 Japan Open tennis championship.

After a first-round bye, Lendl, the world's no. 1 player, broke Matsuzewski's serve in the ninth game of the first set on a serve by the American, ranked 22nd.

In the second set, a "service break" in the ninth game proved decisive. Lendl won the sixth, eighth and ninth games without losing a point in the 32-minute match on the hard court of the newly built Ariake coliseum in downtown Tokyo.

"My knee condition is good now," Lendl said. "I was a bit nervous before playing the first match after a five-week break. I had an operation on my knee on March 11 and started practice six days after the operation. I have the confidence to play a better game this year than last year."

American veteran Jimmy Connors, the no. 5 seed, needed just 65 minutes to beat compatriot Brad Pearce 6-1, 6-1 in another second-round match.

Connors told reporters, "I like this coliseum very much. Except

for the U.S. and French Opens and Wimbledon, I never played in such a good place."

The stadium was completed on April 4 at a cost of 510 million yen (\$3.5 million).

In other second-round matches, American Scott Davis advanced when Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden withdrew with an injury with Davis leading 5-2 in the first set.

In the women's singles first round, top-seeded Melisa Gurney of the United States defeated Iva Budarova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 7-5. Second-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria trounced Nigie Dias of Brazil 6-2, 6-2 and American Kathy Jordan, the no. 3 seed, struggled to a 7-6 (9-7), 3-6, 6-2 triumph over Adriana Villagran of Argentina.

The men's singles winner will pocket \$68,000 and the women's singles winner \$15,000.

Following an increase in overall prize money, the Japan Open became the fifth largest tennis tournament after Wimbledon and the U.S., French and Australian Opens.

Earlier, American John McEnroe, the no. 4 seed in the tournament, withdrew because of injuries.

Khan stretched to the limit

LONDON (R) — Jahangir Khan, who lost his world title last November, had to fight to the point of exhaustion in the semifinals of the British Open Monday night.

The once seemingly invincible Jahangir, who has won the British Open for the last five years, was stretched for 100 minutes by Australian Rodney Martin before winning 7-9, 8-10, 9-6, 9-4, 9-0. Martin looked as though he would pull off a sensational result as he took the second game from 3-8 and two game balls down.

But then the 23-year-old Pakistani called on all his vast international experience and Martin began to wilt after leading 4-2 and 6-4 in the third game.

He also led 4-1 in the fourth although this time his former aggressive style was lacking much of its earlier authority. As it turned out, he was not to win another point as Jahangir piled on the pressure.

In Tuesday night's final Jahangir was to play compatriot Jansher Khan who beat Australian Chris Dittmar 9-4, 4-9, 9-5, 4-9, 9-5 in the other semifinal.

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Anti-apartheid leaders vow to defy new Pretoria rules

This story was written under South Africa's state of emergency which imposes severe reporting restrictions

CAPE TOWN (R) — Anti-apartheid church leaders have vowed to defy a government ban on campaigning for the release of thousands of people held without trial under South Africa's 10-month-old state of emergency.

The authorities, facing an upsurge from civil rights groups and the English-language press, sought to play down the ban, saying it did not stop prayers for the release of a detainee and did not apply to candidates in the May 6 whites-only general election.

"I will urge my congregations to take part in a campaign and to do so peacefully and non-violently, whatever the consequences for me," Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu told a service in Cape Town Monday.

Tutu was loudly applauded by his mainly-white congregation when he said he would appeal to the authorities to free all detainees and asked whether the congregation supported him.

The Anglican Archbishop, who said he feared the weekend ban could outlaw even public prayers for detainees, was joined by Jewish, Catholic and Non-Conformist churches.

Black U.S. Ambassador Edward Perkins, who attended the service, made his strongest public criticism to date of South African policies, saying in a statement that his government would continue to protest at detentions.

Civil rights groups say 30,000 people have been detained at various stages since the emergency was declared in June last year.

after months of protest violence in black townships.

The government has named some 13,000 detainees, including children aged 11 and younger.

Police Commissioner General Johan Coetzee said the order was "not intended to prohibit prayers for the release of a detainee during a bona fide religious gathering."

Nor did it stop election candidates from "adopting a standpoint in regard to the release of detainees," he said in a statement Monday night.

The Johannesburg Star newspaper said that South Africa had reached the stage where "you may not even object to the suspension of the thousand-year-old rule of justice on which our country was founded."

Protests against detention without trial had not been banned "even in the worst totalitarian times of Argentina" and yet it had happened in South Africa, it said in an editorial.

The new ban makes it an offence to encourage anyone to honour detainees, protest at their imprisonment, call for their release or perform a symbolic public act of solidarity with them.

The government's Bureau for Information said Monday night that 10 trains had been set ablaze at five stations in South Africa's largest black township of Soweto.

Moscow reportedly considering sale of MiG-29s to Harare

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union may be preparing to sell a squadron of highly-sophisticated MiG-29 jet interceptors to Zimbabwe, a neighbour and ideological foe of South Africa, Reagan administration officials have said.

The MiG-29 "fulcrum" jets, with long-range radar and a speed of over 2,400 kilometres per hour, are Moscow's most advanced fighters and have been stationed at some Warsaw Pact airfields facing Western Europe.

But only India and Iraq have been allowed to buy the planes outside the Eastern Bloc, Pentagon officials said.

"We know Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union have been talking about such a deal," one administration official told Reuters Monday on grounds that he not be identified.

"Zimbabwe has asked for the jets for air defence and the Soviets are apparently seriously considering the move," he said.

The London Sunday Telegraph reported at the weekend that Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, who has long expressed fears of South African attack, already had secretly purchased 12 — a squadron — of the sophisticated interceptors.

Quoting intelligence sources in Washington, the report said the United States feared South Africa might be tempted to launch pre-emptive air strikes on bases where the planes are to be sited or to intercept Soviet transports carrying them in order to preserve its air superiority in the region.

Asked to comment on the report, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters: "If the news reports are true, we would certainly have concerns about the military, political, and financial implications for Zimbabwe and for the southern African region as a whole."

In Johannesburg South African state radio scorned Zimbabwe's reported purchase of advanced Soviet MiG-29 aircraft, describing the alleged deal as an economic gamble.

"Experts are doubtful whether Zimbabweans will even be able to fly the MiG-29 interceptor planes or operate the radar systems for them," the radio said in its daily commentary, which closely echoes government thinking.

2 polls give Thatcher lead over opposition

LONDON (R) — Two public opinion polls gave Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party a commanding lead Tuesday, fuelling speculation that she would call an early June election.

A telephone poll in the popular Sun tabloid showed the Conservatives 17 points ahead of the Labour Party. It was the biggest rating yet for Mrs. Thatcher.

The poll showed the Conservatives with 44 per cent, while Labour and Alliance had 27 per cent each. The remaining two per cent were undecided.

Another poll commissioned by a financial investment company and carried out by the Mori Organisation this weekend said the Conservative Party was 13 points ahead of Labour, with the centrist Liberal-Social Democrat Alliance trailing in third.

The two polls raised expectations in political circles that Mrs. Thatcher would opt for an early June election in her bid for a record-breaking third term in office. Mrs. Thatcher does not have to call elections until June 1988.

The Sun poll was carried out by audience selection, who canvassed the views of 1,000 voters over the weekend.

The Mori poll was also conducted over the weekend, with 1,071 people questioned in 54 different constituencies.

The Conservatives have been consistently leading recent polls, and until the two latest, the Alliance had been taking second place in some ratings.

Retired Filipino general killed

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — A former commander of the Philippine Air Force was fatally shot by unidentified men, police said Tuesday.

The government-run Philippine News Agency said investigators were looking into the possibility that the gunman who killed retired Maj.-Gen. Jose Rancudo late Monday night were Communists.

Police said an initial investigation indicated six or seven men barged into the rest home on Gen. Rancudo's fish farm in Lubao, 64 kilometres north west of Manila. The retired general was shot about midnight while he was resting on the porch, police said.

No motive was given for the killing.

Meanwhile Philippine spiritual leader Cardinal Jaime Sin has said radical members of the country's powerful Roman Catholic hierarchy had been ordered to end all involvement with an 18-year-old Communist insurgency.

Sin, archbishop of Manila and primate of Asia's only Catholic country, said in a television interview that many priests and nuns had "joined hands" with the Communists during the 20-year rule of former President Ferdinand Marcos, who was toppled by a civilian-backed military revolt in February, 1986.

15 Marine replacements arrive at Moscow mission

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pentagon sources say an internal navy study proposes that embassy guards should be subjected to random lie-detector tests.

Fifteen fresh Marines had arrived in Moscow by Monday, the first replacements for the 28-member force heading home to face questions about security at the troubled Moscow mission.

A new guard force was ordered last month amid charges of wrongdoing against three Marines assigned to Moscow in 1985. Sgt. Clayton Lonetree and Cpl. Arnold Bracy, accused of espionage, allegedly were entrapped by Soviet women into letting Soviet agents into secret areas of the embassy. Sgt. Robert Stufflebeam was accused of violating rules against fraternisation with Soviet citizens.

All 28 guards will be replaced by the end of the week, the Pentagon said. By the end of May, the six-member guard force in Leningrad will be replaced because Sgt. John Weirick, a Marine guard there in 1981, was arrested last week for investigation of espionage.

Though none of the guards being brought home from the two missions has been accused of wrongdoing, the contingents will answer questions in the "continuing probe of the embassy's security."

Meanwhile, five Marine guards at the U.S. embassy in Vienna who previously served in Eastern Europe have been recalled on suspicion of having "social contact" with East European nationals, an embassy spokesman said Tuesday.

"This action is part of a continuing review of security procedures at many U.S. embassies, including the one in Vienna, following the discovery of Soviet espionage attempts at the U.S. embassy in Moscow," said the spokesman, who insisted his name not be used.

He said the embassy could not release the identities of the five Marines or give other details. He said they were sent back to the United States on Sunday.

Accused Irish passport official contacts embassy in London

LONDON (R) — An Irish official being investigated for the alleged sale of passports to Arabs and Iranian nationals has contacted his embassy in London through his lawyer, an embassy official said Tuesday.

The official told Reuters the lawyer for Kevin McDonald telephoned the Irish embassy Monday night after Irish officials had been unable to contact McDonald during the past three days.

McDonald was relieved of his duties at the embassy on Friday and ordered to return to Dublin for consultations after the people newspaper alleged he was selling passports for up to £15,000 (\$24,000) each.

The Irish embassy official declined to say whether or not McDonald was still in London.

McDonald's legal status in Britain is unclear, according to official sources. They say that as a passport officer he is not on the embassy's diplomatic staff but technical officers enjoy some diplomatic immunity.

Indonesia defends press curbs, human rights record

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian officials strongly stand behind the legality of curbs on the press, defend the execution of Communists and believe their country is misunderstood abroad.

The deputy parliamentary speaker, Hardjanto Sumodisastro, told Indonesian reporters after a meeting with President Suharto that the government should intensify lobby diplomatic missions here, particularly those of Western European countries, to clear up misunderstandings about the country's human rights record.

He was quoted in Indonesian newspapers Tuesday as saying he found during a tour that took him to The Netherlands, Britain, the United States, Japan and Hong Kong that foreign governments had the wrong impression about four key issues.

These were the execution last September of nine Communists accused of taking part in a 1965 coup attempt, Indonesia's mass resettlement programme, its invasion of East Timor in 1975 and its human-rights record.

The European Community, Australia and The Netherlands expressed concern about the execution of the Communists so long after the coup.

But Hardjanto said that they were executed after due process of law.

He said Indonesian culture was "against torture, let alone killing," the official Antara News Agency reported.

The main objective of his trip was to correct misunderstandings abroad about Indonesia, he said.

In comments published by the leading Indonesian newspaper, Kompas, a senior Information Ministry official strongly defended the legality of the government closing one of Jakarta's main newspapers last year.

Sukarno, director general of press and graphics at the ministry, said newspapers ran the risk of losing their publishing licences if they failed to perform as "a sound, free and responsible press."

He said the contents of a publication could be used as a justification for withdrawing its business licence.

He was responding to remarks by former Chief Justice Umar Seno Adji, who said this month that the licensing of newspapers should not be used as a method of control.

He said the granting of a publishing licence had nothing to do with press freedom and was only connected with the financial condition of the publishing house.

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Police seize two tonnes of hashish

TARANTO, Italy (AP) — Customs police have seized two tonnes of hashish worth some 22 billion lire (\$17 million) and arrested 21 people in the operation in this southern port city, newspaper reported Tuesday. One ring member was reported wounded in a shoot-out when police moved in as the gang was unloading the drugs from a speedboat on a coastal strip. A second man fell to his death on the rocks while trying to flee, Italian news media said.

QE2 liner extends sea trials

BREMERHAVEN, West Germany (R) — A West German shipbuilder, racing to avoid cash penalties for not completing on time its contract to overhaul the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2, has said it has had to extend sea trials because of technical problems with new engines. Lloyd Werft said the trials, which began on April 8, would now continue until next weekend rather than next Wednesday but it was confident the extension would not affect the strict timetable for the refit. About 750 workers are working round the clock to complete interior redecoration while the liner continues with its trials in the North Sea. The Bremerhaven company won a 320 million mark (\$175 million) order for the six-month overhaul after agreeing to pay a heavy penalty for each day it ran over the April 25 deadline for delivery to the QE2's owner Cunard.

U.S. defector celebrates birthday

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. army defector Wade Roberts, who has been granted political asylum by Moscow, has celebrated his 22nd birthday with a desert picnic in his new home region of Soviet Central Asia, the official TASS news agency said. "I want everyone to know that I feel free and happy here," Roberts, a Californian who had been serving as a private in West Germany, was quoted as saying by TASS. Local people in Ashkhabad, capital of Turkmenia, where Roberts has decided to settle, gave him a bunch of tulips for his birthday. According to TASS, he chose Ashkhabad because it is close to the snake-infested Karakum Desert and Roberts said he had been a snake-catcher at home in California. Roberts flew to Ashkhabad at the weekend with his West German wife Petra Neumann, TASS said.

2 die after 9-storey plunge

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Two ethnic Indian men have died in a nine-storey plunge from an apartment house after a melee at a party there, police reported. The victims were found outside the building by police called to the scene of a reported shooting disturbance at a party in a ninth floor apartment. The victims' identities were not immediately disclosed. Eyewitnesses told police that one of the victims jumped from the ninth floor and the other was thrown off, according to the Amsterdam daily Het Parool. The man who was reportedly thrown from the ninth floor had stab wounds, according to police, who found three swords in the ninth floor apartment. Police in Hoorn, 30 kilometres north of Amsterdam, later arrested four brothers on homicide charges in connection with the deaths, a police spokesman there told the Associated Press.

Von Bulow lawsuit dismissed

NEW YORK (R) — A Manhattan federal court judge has dismissed Danish-born socialite Claus Von Bulow's \$20-million malicious prosecution suit against his stepson Alexander Auersperg. U.S. district Judge John Walker ruled that a one-year statute of limitations had run out on Von Bulow, the Danish socialite who was acquitted in June 1985 of trying to murder his millionaire wife Martha (Sunny) Von Bulow. Martha Von Bulow lapsed into irreversible coma in December 1980, and attempted murder charges were brought against Von Bulow. He was found guilty in one trial but that verdict was overturned and he was acquitted in a retrial. Auersperg and his sister Annie-Laurie Kniesl filed a \$56-million suit against Von Bulow shortly after his acquittal. They are seeking to bar Von Bulow from receiving any of the proceeds from their mother's estate.

Princess joins battle against AIDS

LONDON (AP) — Princess Margaret, World War II sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn, and members of the cast of The West End hit Phantom of the Opera joined forces Sunday night in the battle against AIDS. They were among the guests and performers at a special charity concert at Sadler's Wells, which organisers hope will raise between £40,000 and £50,000 (\$65,000 and \$81,000) for research against the deadly disease, which robs the body of its ability to resist infection. Princess Margaret, the sister of Queen Elizabeth II and guest of honour, became the second member of the royal family in less than a week to publicly support the work being done for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) victims. On Wednesday, Princess Diana shook hands and chatted with nine patients in the new AIDS ward at the Middlesex Hospital in central London. Sunday night's show was opened by cast members from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera. Dame Vera Lynn was a surprise addition to the star-studded cast, singing "We'll Meet Again." Part of the programme, named Will Aid and based on the work of William Shakespeare, was a production of an 1811 Hamlet spoof called "The Hamlet Travesty," arranged and directed by Ned Sherrin. The 60-minute "Travesty" consists of rhyming couplets, delivered at breakneck speed, with the final confrontation between Hamlet and Laertes as a prize fight. Tickets for the performance cost between £10 and 75 (\$16 and \$122).

1st U.S. AIDS hospital losing money

HOUSTON (AP) — The world's first hospital exclusively for AIDS treatment and research has become a cherished haven for victims of the disease eight months after it opened, but it is losing \$600,000 to \$800,000 a month. "We are going to continue. We haven't changed our mission," said Daniel G. Moreschi, director of development at the privately owned Institute for Immunological Disorders. "Here, we're treated like people. It's the only place where I've not been treated as an AIDS patient, but just as a patient," said Randy Turner, 33. The hospital is caring for 700 AIDS patients, most as outpatients, but the unique demands of the killer disease have exhausted the \$250,000 set aside last September to treat charity cases. About 40 per cent of the patients are getting free care, and new charity patients now are referred to county and state hospitals. Moreschi said the hospital is seeking private donations to offset the monthly losses. "We have not stopped indigent care," said Moreschi. "It's just that we cannot take any new indigent patients." The hospital continues to be supported by its owner, American Medical International, a hospital chain. The company believes the importance of research and treatment into acquired immune deficiency syndrome goes beyond profit and loss, Moreschi said.

\$40m painting could hurt Japan's image

TOKYO (AP) — The Ministry of Finance has told the company that paid nearly \$40 million for a Vincent Van Gogh painting that the steep price could damage Japan's image, a ministry official has said. The official, who refused to be named, said the ministry took the action "to make the company aware of the influence of such behaviour to the public." He said a high-ranking ministry official made the remarks in a meeting with Yasuo Goto, president of Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance Co. The official spoke to Goto last Thursday, one day after auctioneers in London identified Yasuda as the buyer of the painting Sunflowers. Yasuda bought the 1889 work by the Dutch artist on March 30 at a London auction, tripling the highest price previously paid for an auctioned painting. The company said it made the purchase to commemorate the company's centennial next year.

Sri Lanka makes New Year call for peace

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government called Tuesday for an end to the island's ethnic war as the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities celebrated the dawn of their New Year.

"Let us forget past differences and enmities and take the hand of peace," said Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa in a New Year message. "Let us accept as brothers and sisters those of the other communities who are culturally and otherwise close to us."

Last Saturday the government announced a unilateral 10-day ceasefire in its war with Tamil separatist rebels, saying Sri Lankans should be able to celebrate the New Year peacefully.

It said the truce was also aimed at supporting efforts by India to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict in which more than 5,000 people have been killed in four years.

But the ceasefire was rejected by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, most powerful of the guerrilla groups fighting for an independent Tamil homeland.

A Tigers' spokesman told reporters at their headquarters in the south Indian city of Madras that the government move was a ruse to give war-weary soldiers a rest.

The council of Hindu organisations, representing Tamils, welcomed the government ceasefire in a New Year message and appealed to the rebels to respond positively.

A government spokesman said security forces had been given strict orders not to attack the rebels during the truce period unless they came under extreme provocation.

Meanwhile Time magazine quoted a Sri Lankan official as saying President Junius Jayewardene will visit India and sign an agreement with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi if negotiations with Tamil rebels succeed.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudali said "Jayewardene would fly to New Delhi and sign a memorandum of understanding" with Mr. Gandhi if the talks are successful, the magazine said in its Monday issue.

"If the negotiations should fail, on the other hand, government would launch an all-out military offensive" against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Hart enters presidential race with attack on declining ethics

DENVER (R) — Former Colorado Senator Gary Hart has formally entered the race for the Democratic Party's 1988 presidential nomination, pledging "to give you a presidency you can be proud of."

At a rally in central Denver Monday, Sen. Hart blamed the Reagan administration for "public officials who represent the ethics of Donovan, Deaver and Boskey."

He was referring to former Labour Secretary Raymond Donovan, on trial for fraud, former White House aide Michael Deaver, recently indicted for perjury and stock market magnate Ivan Boskey, who has become a symbol of an insider-trading scandal sweeping Wall Street.

"In recent years we've fallen far short of the ideal of America," he said. "We've let personal greed replace a sense of social justice and equity and the national good."

He also denounced the Reagan administration for conducting "secret wars" in Central America and "Marines left to die unnecessarily in Beirut."

Earlier, in remarks to reporters and television cameras, Sen. Hart said: "I intend, as I always have, to run a campaign of ideas."

"Ideas are what governing is all about and governing is what this election is all about. Traditional politics must take second place in 1988," he said.

Sen. Hart, one of the most liberal members of the Senate during his 12 years in Washington, appeared convinced that after more than six years of Reagan's anti-government rhetoric Americans are prepared for government to again take an active role in aiding the less affluent.

Sen. Hart, 50, was the third Democrat formally to enter the 1988 race, joining Missouri Representative Richard Gephardt and former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt.

Black rights leader Jesse Jackson, who like Sen. Hart ran in 1984, Delaware Senator Joseph Biden, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, Tennessee Senator Albert Gore and Illinois Senator Paul Simon were also expected to enter the race.

But opinion polls have put Sen. Hart, the only nationally known figure other than Rev. Jackson, well in front.

Lange denies report of secret deal on U.S. base

LONDON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange Tuesday denied a British press report that his government had made a secret deal with Washington to safeguard the future of the U.S. Antarctic base in the New Zealand city of Christchurch.

In a letter to the Times newspaper, Mr. Lange said the report by the paper on April 9 was inaccurate.

The Times reported that Mr. Lange had been forced to admit in parliament that he had signed a secret agreement to continue to allow U.S. planes to use Christchurch as a base for its Antarctic operations after the passage of anti-nuclear laws.

The paper pointed out operation Deep Freeze brought Christchurch about \$20 million a year.

"There is no 'secret agreement' to safeguard the future of the U.S. Antarctic facilities in Christchurch following the passage of New Zealand's anti-nuclear legislation," Mr. Lange wrote.

He said the American use of the base was covered by longstanding agreements tabled in parliament, so that no new deal was needed, and that the Antarctic treaty required operations to be non-military anyway.

"It is wrong to assert that any deal over the Antarctic base was necessary as a result of our anti-nuclear legislation," the prime minister wrote.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OWAN SEAR
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—Some while back, I read in one of your columns that the modern tendency is to treat an overall just like an opening bid and respond accordingly. That led to a debacle after this auction:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Sitting South, I held:
♠J864 77 ♠A1032 ♣J785
Partner said he expected a much better hand from me, and when I cited what he suggested you were losing your marbles if indeed you made such a statement. Should you be locked up? —J.M., San Diego, Calif.

A.—If I made such a blanket statement, perhaps I should be locked up. I should have said is that you treat partner's overall as an opening bid on hands where you have a fit. Thus you would raise his suit to the two-level on 6-10 points and make a limit raise with 11-12. On stronger hands with a fit, either bid game or start with a cue-bid of the enemy suit, depending on how good your support is for partner's

suit. When it comes to responding with one no trump, you are looking at a different situation. Where partner has opened the bidding, you respond one no trump with no fit and a weak hand for two reasons:

1. You might have a fit in another suit, and you must give partner a chance to show a second suit if he has one.

2. Partner might have a very strong hand for his one-level opening bid, and you must give him the opportunity to describe it.

Neither of these reasons holds good when partner has overcalled. The chances for a second suit are reduced, since he is likely to have five or six cards in the suit he bid. And his hand is of limited strength since he failed to make a takeout double.

With a misfit, it is particularly dangerous to bid one no trump after his overcall. If you have a weak hand, where do you expect to produce tricks if you can't make them in partner's long suit? And if his suit is a source of tricks, the hand is unlikely to play any better in no trump than in his suit.

سكوا من الجول